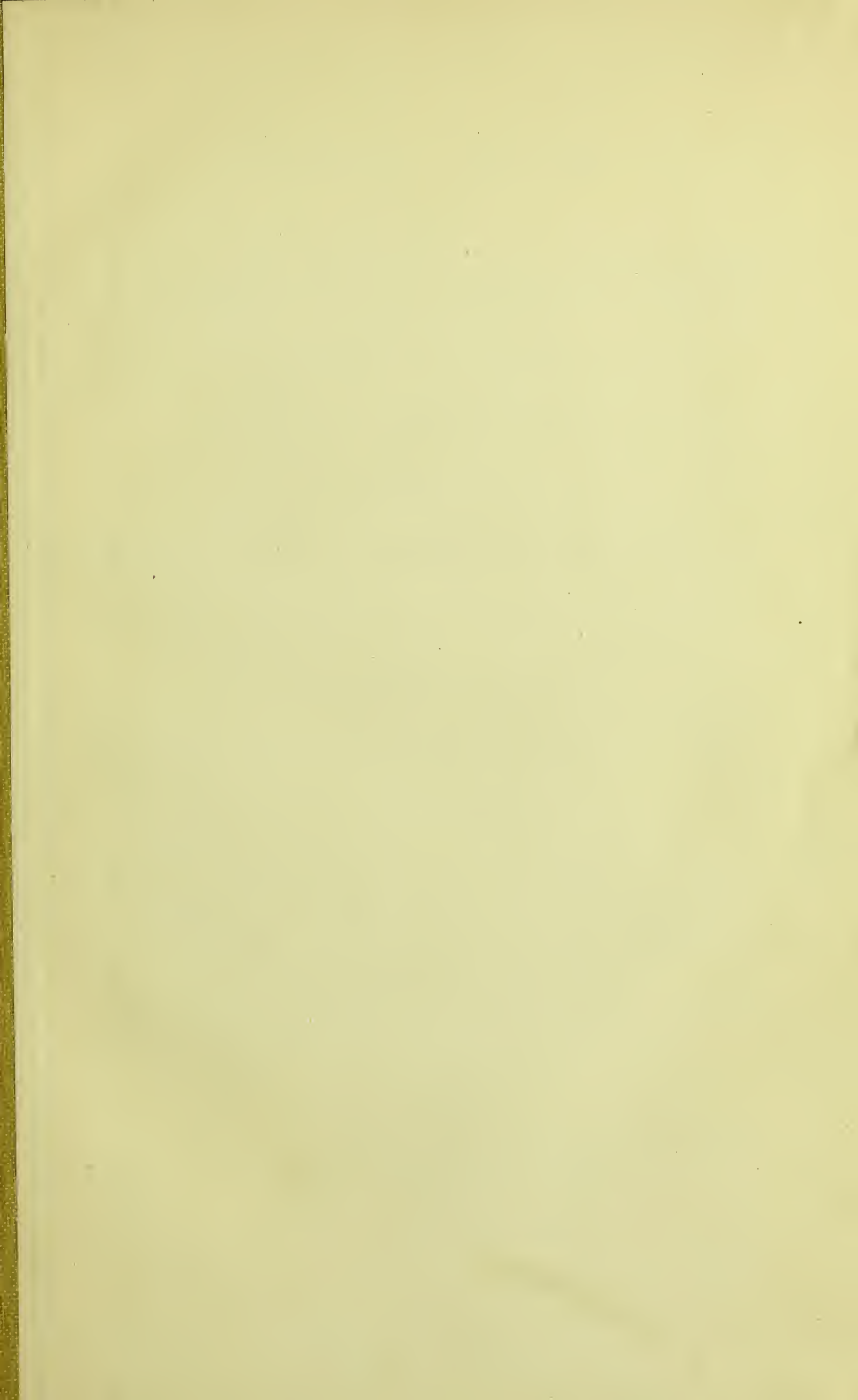



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REVELATIONS
OF
QUACKS AND QUACKERY:

A SERIES OF LETTERS
BY "DETECTOR,"

REPRINTED FROM
"THE MEDICAL CIRCULAR,"

BY THEIR AUTHOR,

F. B. COURTENAY,

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND, AND FORMERLY SURGEON TO THE
METROPOLITAN INFIRMARY FOR THE CURE OF STRICTURE OF THE URETHRA.

TENTH EDITION.

FACTS AND CASES

IN ILLUSTRATION OF
THE NEFARIOUS PRACTICES OF
THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL ADVERTISING QUACKS.

LONDON:
BAILLIERE, TINDALL, & COX, MEDICAL PUBLISHERS,
20 KING WILLIAM STREET, STRAND.

1885.

Price 1s. 6d.

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P R E F A C E .

CUSTOM has ~~rendered it imperative~~ on all authors to prefix to their productions a Preface, in which they are generally expected, if not to justify their intrusion on the public notice, at all events to offer good reasons for their so doing.

As, however, I have in my first letter anticipated this necessity by therein stating the reasons which led me to write the following series of letters, I have now only to offer explanation on another matter, viz., the republication of the letters in a book form. On this point, then, I may state that the interest which has been excited both in the Profession and the public by these "Revelations" was amply attested by the fact that, all the numbers of the *Medical Press and Circular* in which they appeared were sold in a remarkably short space of time, and to the then daily applicants for the whole series of letters, the inevitable answer was "*out of print.*"

Under such circumstances it was suggested to me by medical friends, and indeed, by medical gentlemen who are personally strangers to me, to allow of their

republishment in such a form as would not only supply the existing demand, but also be available for more general circulation than was possible when confined to the pages of a medical journal.

In illustration of these sentiments, I will here quote from a letter written by a physician in extensive practice to a friend of mine on the subject.

“My dear ——— ,

“Thanks for ——— and the numbers of the *Medical Circular* containing your friend Courtenay’s interesting papers. He is doing the public good service : and it is a great pity he has not attached his name, which would have given his facts still greater weight. If I knew him, I should advise him to publish his different papers in the form of a pamphlet. I am certain the Profession would gladly purchase them and give them the widest possible circulation in their power. Depend upon it, such a pamphlet would have a tremendous sale. Do give him the hint the next time you write him.”

Twenty years have now elapsed since the publication of the first edition of the “Revelations.” The rapidity with which that edition and the subsequent ones (this is the tenth) have been sold, bears witness to the interest which both the Profession and the public continue to take in the subject with which it treats.

Naturally, many changes have taken place in the personality of some of the impostors whom the work was written to expose. Some of these have gone to that bourne from which no traveller returns—others,

unabashed by the exposure, still continue to carry on their nefarious practices, and, in a pecuniary sense, apparently with undiminished success.

Such is the unbounded credulity inherent in the class of patients for whom they spread their toils !

Others again, either from lacking the brazen impudence as those just mentioned, or from policy, have changed both their names and their residences, and under other aliases and in pastures new have resumed their evil ways. It is impossible to follow their chameleon-like transformations ; but of this we may be sure, that in every instance their *modus operandi* is exactly similar to that described in the "Revelations." And yet again others have left their country (certainly for their country's good and sought their fortunes in our colonies and amongst our American consins. But as the laws in reference to unqualified Medical practice in these countries are more stringent than in our own, it is to be hoped their careers may be of the briefest. Yet, strange to say, notwithstanding this stringency in relation to the prevention of illegal medical practice in these countries, there are certain Universities, especially in America, which have long carried on a nefarious and profitable trade, by selling their so-called degrees without examination ; thus enabling a host of unprincipled and ignorant men to prey under false colours on the suffering public, and not only upon those labouring under the special diseases which the quacks most affect to treat, but also on the sufferers from all other maladies to which flesh is heir. Thus, in recent years, we find men with German and American "*bogus*"

diplomas inviting the public to consult them, and professing to treat the most serious and complicated forms of disease without a personal interview, with unfailing success. Now, when we call to mind the complications which frequently obscure the various symptoms of disease, and remember that our most distinguished physicians, with all the advantages of cultivated intellect and trained habits of observation—physicial examination—the use of the stethoscope and other instruments which modern science places in their hands, sometimes fail in their attempt to determine the exact nature of the maladies submitted to their judgment, this claim by the class of men referred to, that is to say, the power of correctly recognising and treating all kinds of maladies without a personal examination of the patient, must surely appear so transparently absurd as to prevent any sane person from being duped into consulting such pretenders. Yet, from everyday evidence, it is to be feared that these men find victims in sufficient numbers to make their game highly remunerative. I indulge in the hope, however, that should this brief notice come under the observation of any persons so credulous as to contemplate consulting any of these humbugs, they will open their eyes to the absurdity and danger of such a proceeding.

As to American and Foreign degrees, I advise my readers *on no account to consult* the holders of them. Many of these degrees have been purchased for a few pounds each, and, as evidence of medical knowledge are not worth the paper upon which they are printed. How they were manufactured is well-known. The

United States Government has withdrawn the charter granted to one college, on account of the disreputable nature of its transactions in this respect. The professors and examiners, who were described as masons, bricklayers, labourers, &c., without other qualification than Yankee 'cuteness, added to their honest earnings such trifles as their *smart* secretary could secure for them by the sale of worthless diplomas.

In this country the efforts of those who have endeavoured to check the career of these dangerous quacks have been impeded by the magisterial recognition of the "*bogus*" diplomas ; but the matter is of such vital importance to the public interest that the authorities cannot long permit their owners to prey upon the unsuspecting.

An interesting disclosure of the practices of these gentry was made some time ago at Manchester, where a police officer, having consulted several of the fraternity, stated that he was directed to furnish specimens of his urine, and procured at a chemist's a bottle containing six ounces of water, three drops of hydro-sulphate of ammonia, and ten drops of syrup of saffron ; after examining this mixture very carefully, the patient was gravely informed it contained a large quantity of *semen*, and he was supplied with a mixture of sal volatile, quassia, cardamoms, &c.

Twelve of these men were convicted, and several hundredweights of obscene literature found on their premises ordered to be destroyed. It was stated that some of the defendants were connected with loan offices, from which their dupes were permitted to borrow money to enable them to pay the heavy fees for con-

sultation, medicine, &c., &c., the managers of these offices being in a position to sue defaulters in the courts of law for the recovery of the amounts advanced, whereas the self-styled doctors could not recover their fees by any legal means.

The Medical Defence Association in various parts of the country have successfully prosecuted unqualified persons, in several cases, and I hope they will persevere in their course of action until the practice of such individuals will be so well known throughout the length and breadth of the land, that only those who are so foolish as not to be warned, will learn from personal experience how they may be robbed of money and health by these pests of society.

The following is an extract from a pamphlet, and hand-bill, at one time circulated in the public streets and thrust into the hands of the youth of both sexes, recommending a

WONDERFUL FEMALE PILL,

described as "One of the choicest remedies ever compounded.

"They have rescued thousands from an early grave, and

"given relief when all other remedies have failed. They

"strengthen, regulate, and purify the system, and give a

"lively complexion to the palest countenances.

"Please take Notice :—These pills should not be used by

"ladies who are expecting to become mothers. Price Five

"Shillings per bottle, sent post free.

"TESTIMONIAL.

"From Miss J. W., September 27th, 1876.

"I can never sufficiently thank you for the benefit I

"have received. That which I feared would be a life-long

"anxiety has been removed, and hope and cheerfulness

“restored. Should I ever meet anyone in the same case as my own I should consider I was doing them the greatest possible benefit in recommending them to you. There are thousands in the same position as myself who would rejoice to know of your skill.”

The caution against taking these pills may, without any effort of imagination, be applied to the *opposite* sense—ladies *expecting*—but *not wishing* to become mothers may be advised to use them: one of two things is obvious; either the pills will remove what the lady might fear would be a life-long anxiety to her; or the caution is unnecessary, and only intended to deceive the victims, and to fill the pockets of the seller.

It has been a source of extreme pleasure to me to find my humble attempt to expose the terrible system of terrorism and extortion pursued by the “*Quacks of London*,” so greatly commended by such high-class journals as the *Saturday Review*, *Punch*, *The Social Science Review*, *Public Opinion*, *The Anti-Teapot Review*, the *Weekly Dispatch*, *The Sun*, &c.

I feel sure that it will be a subject of congratulation to all the gentlemen connected with these journals to hear I have reason to know in several instances the fact of their having called the attention of their readers to the “*Revelations*,” has been the means of rescuing very many of them from the hands of the quacks, as well as in other cases of preventing them from falling into the clutches of these men.

The almost daily thanks which I receive, either by letter or personally, from sufferers real or imaginary who, in consequence of reading this work, have been saved from becoming, or continuing to be, the dupes of

the scamps therein exposed, is a sufficient attestation of the need there was of some such "guide, philosopher, and friend," as I flatter myself it has proved to thousands ; whilst the results of its publication have been no less disastrous to the quacks than they have been beneficial to the class of sufferers for whose protection the " Letters " were originally written. Thus, I am happy to say that amongst the list of quacks as published in the earlier editions of the " Revelations," many are *hors de combat* ; whilst the effects on others whose names, real or assumed, figured on the list have been to cause them, by the assumption of other aliases, and removal to other residences, to endeavour to evade the exposure of their nefarious proceedings, and thus also enable them to continue to batten on the credulity of their unfortunate dupes. A few of these successfully eluded the inquiries I had caused to be made as to their whereabouts, and the new names and arrangements they made (some say with unprincipled medical men who have degraded themselves and the Profession by lending their names), may have rendered it possible for them to continue their once successful traffic on the fears and pockets of a too credulous public ; and, indeed, it would appear from the following advertisement that either a most infamous and unparalleled attempt had been made to impose on the suffering public, or else that a man whose name appeared in the List of the College of Surgeons and in the " Medical Register " had alike disgraced himself and the Profession by lending his name and his services to the vile so-called Institute of Anatomy at Birmingham. Here is the advertisement referred to :—

WHY ARE THE YOUNG NERVOUS AND THE MIDDLE-AGED DEBILITATED?—This is now explained in a Medical Work, and a Safe Mode of Treatment for the Restoration of Health and Vigour fully stated. Avoid Galvanic Appliances and Quackery. A single copy post free on receipt of stamped envelope. Address "Secretary, Institute of Anatomy, Birmingham." The Author, A. M. BUTTON, M.R.C.S., L.S.A., will send advice, free of charge, to all applicants who send details of their cases, and may be consulted daily at 44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham.

I was unable to ascertain positively that the A. M. Button referred to in the above, was associated, as it would appear, with the notorious Hunters, whose proceedings are fully exposed at page 108 of the "Revelations ;" but, if the fact was so, then I have no hesitation in thus publically saying that in my opinion he was a more infamous wretch than his vile employer or employers. I remember, however, that some years ago a gang of quacks obtained by purchase the diploma of a deceased member of the College of Surgeons named Sargeant, and caused one of their number to get himself registered as the veritable Sergeant, and for a considerable period successfully carried on a quack practice, till at last the cheat was detected, and the parties were prosecuted at the Old Bailey, convicted and imprisoned. Now it may be that in the instance I have been referring to some such dodge was being practised, and if so the A. M. Button whose name may have been associated with the Institute of Anatomy was perhaps perfectly innocent of any connexion therewith.

There is another subject which has been a frequent matter of complaint with several patients—it is the galvanic belt dodge, the asserted self-cure-without-

medicines trick. A patient once showed me one of these belts he was at the time wearing. It appeared to be one very like the belt and curative appliances, referred to in the "Revelations," as sold by the different quacks therein exposed, whilst the asserted self-cure without medicines was as groundless as the assertions to the same effect made by those impostors, and which I have exposed in the Letters. Thus, the patient informed me that, after paying two or three guineas for the "self-curative belt," he was charged a further sum of three guineas for medicines, and on their being finished, a demand for three guineas more was made for another supply of the remedies. In the face of such facts as these, is it not almost incredible that patients should be thus duped by such transparent falsehoods and frauds ?

There remains only one other subject on which I think it necessary to comment in reference to the continued successful career of both the London and Provincial quacks, viz., the support afforded them by the newspaper press. When the "Revelations" were first published the majority of the London daily and weekly press admitted the obscene advertisements of the quacks into their columns ; but the notice taken by the first-class papers of the "Revelations," and the discussions thence resulting, had such a happy effect that, almost immediately, the further circulation of this class of advertisements was stopped, and there is now scarcely one respectable daily or weekly London paper that will admit these vile announcements into its columns. All honour to them for their noble and disinterested conduct ! For it is beyond doubt that in thus acting

they diminished their annual receipts by many thousands.

It is to be deeply regretted that the majority of the Provincial Press have not imitated them in this noble sacrifice of their own pecuniary interests to the welfare of their readers and the public generally. Had they done so, the whole tribe of quacks whom they now aid and abet would have been things of the past.

Some years ago in the *Students' Journal and Hospital Gazette* there appeared a very able article on this subject, which I now append. It says all that I would say on the subject in a much more eloquent form than I could.

LAY NEWSPAPERS AND QUACK ADVERTISEMENTS.

[From the "*Students' Journal*," Saturday, June 19, 1875.]

Our attention is constantly being directed by provincial correspondents to the unblushing insertion, by country newspapers, of the advertisements of those quacks who pretend to have made diseases of the organs of generation a special study. We have again and again referred to this scandalous abuse of the public press, and have often mentioned by name some of the newspapers whose advertisement columns are permitted to be so prostituted, but we fear with but little good. In one case only has the editor of a provincial newspaper had the sense of honour and courage to thank us for directing attention to the disgraceful use that was being made of his columns, and to assure us that the objectionable advertisements should not be repeated. In other cases the editors have either not noticed our animadversions, or have excused their

conduct by saying that, if they were to reject such advertisements, other newspapers would insert them.

When we charge newspaper editors with misconduct in throwing open their columns to quacks, we wish not to be misunderstood. We don't complain of their inserting advertisements of such preparations as "Clarke's Blood Mixture," "Darlow's Magnetine Appliances," "Parr's Life Pills," and the like. If the public patronise these "marvellous discoveries," little harm is done beyond lightening the purses of the purchasers; but we feel bound to lodge an emphatic protest when we find newspapers of wide circulation permitting their advertising columns to be used by the most nefarious impostors, who live and thrive by working on the fears and imaginations of those who are drawn into their nets.

It is, we maintain, the duty of newspaper editors to do all in their power to protect the public against villainy, fraud, and deceit, and especially should they shield and defend the young, who, from lack of experience, are unable to distinguish between the true and the false. Instead of recognising this duty, we find that a large number of the country newspapers daily and weekly publish several columns of these improper advertisements, and thus they actually aid and abet those who have effected the ruin, both in body and mind—to say nothing of the pocket—of hundreds of young men and women.

No editor can excuse himself by saying that he is ignorant of the character of the advertisements to which we refer. It must be known to every man of experience that these so-called medical treatises on the organs of generation, &c., are unfit for the perusal of young men or women, to whom they are particularly addressed. It should also be known by them that qualified medical men—with one or two exceptions—do not publish sixpenny and shilling pamphlets of this class, and that were they to do so, the advertising such works in the columns of a newspaper would be a highly unprofessional proceeding, as well as an outrage on public decency.

Happily, many newspapers will not publish such advertisements, no matter by whom they are sent, among these being all the respectable London dailies and weeklies; but in the country it is the exception to meet with a journal whose columns are entirely

exempt from them. Judging from the newspapers that are sent to us by our readers, the evil prevails to the greatest extent in the manufacturing districts and in University towns. It is not our intention in the present article to mention the name of any paper, because we are not without hope that some of the editors will recognise their duty after receiving a copy of the present number of *The Students' Journal*, and refuse insertion to all advertisements of quack books which treat on nervous debility, the duties of marriage, &c. If they do not, we shall return to the subject shortly, and denounce the offending journals by name. The publication of such advertisements has been condemned, not only by public opinion but by our law courts, and also by coroners' juries at inquests held on the bodies of those who have committed suicide after having fallen into the hands of advertising quacks.

What surprises us is that heads of families should permit newspapers containing such advertisements to enter their houses. If a few men of position in each town were to resolve to discontinue subscribing to local papers which admit obscene advertisements to their columns, the editors and publishers thereof would soon cut their connexion with the spermatorrhœa doctors. Writing on this subject, the author of "*Revelations of Quacks and Quackery*" says: "It is pregnant with matter for grave reflection, and this not only in reference to patients themselves, but also in regard to the reprehensible conduct of parents who so recklessly admit into their family circle newspapers which insert the obscene advertisements of the quacks. As I have said before, these advertisements are traps for their sons, and an offence to the modesty of their daughters. Were it within the compass of my power, I would place a narrative of this case" (a case of gross extortion by a quack) "in the hands of every father, and ask him how he can reconcile the admission of these greedy newspapers into his home with the care and duty he owes to his children. Well assured am I," he continues, "that many cases of unaccountable suicide in youths and young men, which cause so much surprise and misery in families, are due to these unfortunates having become the dupes of quacks." In an article on the same subject, *The Irish Builder* says of the newspapers which give advertising facility to these vile characters: "Their public advocacy otherwise in the cause of religion or social progress is not worth two

pence. Hundreds upon hundreds of our population are plundered and poisoned by these medical pests of society. Yea, plunder is supplemented by murder, whole families are destroyed, insanity is engendered, and the victims of these vile knaves are driven headlong to destruction and an early grave." This is a very terrible picture of the evil wrought through the abuse of the advertisement columns of the lay press, but, speaking from personal observation, we are sure it is not at all overdrawn. It is commonly supposed that the quacks aim at duping young men only ; such, however, is not the case, as we have known instances where young women have been victimised by them, and their lives rendered miserable.

A short time ago we were consulted on behalf of a young lady residing at Oxford. She was pretty, clever, and accomplished, and was engaged to be married—in fact, the wedding day had been fixed. At the last moment, however, much to the surprise of her friends, she broke off the engagement without any adequate reason, gave up all her ordinary pursuits, shunned society, and appeared thoroughly broken in body and mind. For some time the cause of the alteration in her conduct was unaccountable, but, by chance, one day a quack book which treats on the marriage state and the relation of women thereto (which is regularly advertised in the Oxford newspapers) was found in her possession. There was the cause of all the misery and unhappiness. Anxious to know what the relations and duties of marriage really were, she had answered one of the advertisements, and received a disgusting book in which she read that an affection (*leucorrhœa*) from which she suffered to a slight extent was a bar to marriage. Without taking any friend into her confidence, she thought it her duty to break off the engagement ; and so great has been her mental anguish at being, as she believed, incapacitated for marriage, that it is doubtful whether she will ever recover her former health and buoyancy of spirits.

Probably there are many such cases, but the details of them seldom penetrate beyond the family circle, and even here are only vaguely understood. Is it not, then, the bounden duty of every honest citizen to do all in his power to frustrate the nefarious proceedings of these knavish quacks ; and since publicity is the means by which they gain a market for their pernicious works, if that

publicity be denied them, their trade will fail. The responsibility of the health and comfort, nay, even of the lives, of many of the rising generation, thus rests with the editors of newspapers; and how careful should they be that the columns of their journals should, in no wise assist in disseminating that which pollutes the minds of the young, and renders them unfit to fulfil the duties of society, and to enjoy its pleasures, and, in fact, makes their whole life a burden and a misery.

In conclusion, I would express a further hope that the present edition of the "Revelations" may, like its predecessors, be the means of preventing many hundreds from falling victims to the dangerous class therein exposed.

Many country papers, as I have previously remarked, still continue to insert the advertisements of "Quacks," and, therefore, I would impress upon my readers never to admit into their homes any papers of this class, and *above all never to consult* the authors of them.

My object in publishing the present work will not be fully attained until the last of the tribe of quacks has ceased to exist or joined his brethren in those establishments where many, more honest men than they, have been sent to sojourn at the expense of Her Majesty's Government.

F. B. COURTENAY.

2 CHANDOS STREET, CAVENDISH SQUARE, W.,

March, 1885.

GUIDE TO THE LONDON AND PROVINCIAL QUACKS.

- ALLDAY, GEO., 179 Deansgate, Manchester.
- ALLEN, JAS. (*alias* PERRY), a Shoemaker, 98 Great Ancoats Street, Manchester.
- BARNES, Dr. J. T., Lonsdale Square, Barnsbury.
- BELL, Wardour Street.
- BRADY, BENJAMIN (*alias* KEY), 6 Ashton Street, Manchester.
- BUTCHER, JOHN, 121 Hanover Street, Manchester.
- CARPENTER, Dr., London, and Lee, Kent.
- CASEY, EDWARD, 10 Canal Street, Ancoats, Manchester.
- CUBIT, 6 Crisp Street, Poplar, E.
- CURTIS (*alias* J. LA'MERT, 15 Albemarle Street, Piccadilly.
- DAVIES, ALFRED (*alias* R. J. BRODIE), 118 Grosvenor Street, Manchester.
- DAVIES, C. H. (*alias* HENRY CHAS. DAVIES), St. John Street, Deansgate, Manchester, brother to ALFRED.
- DAVIS, 114 Duke Street, Liverpool.
- DE ROOS, WALTER, 25 Bedford Place, Bloomsbury Square.
- D'LALOR, 6 Mecklenburgh Square.
- DU BRANGE, Gilbert Street.
- DUPRE, FERDINAND, 107 Grosvenor Street, Manchester, and London.
- HAMILTON, J. (Keeper of a Museum), Oxford Street.
- HAMMOND, 11 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square.
- HARRISON (*same address*), removed to Bernard St., Russell Sq.
- HILL, W., Berkeley House, South Crescent, Russell Square.
- HILLIER, (*same address*), which is also the address of Watson, removed.
- HOOVER, 5 Oxford Street, Abercrombie Square, Liverpool.
- HUNTER, Institute of Anatomy, Birmingham, *see* Mantell.
- JENNER (*same address*) ; and this is also the address of Hammond and Harrison, which *see* .
- [For an explanation of this juggle *see* Addenda.]
- JOHNSTON, J., 25 Haddington Place, Edinburgh.
- KAHN and Co., Sidmouth Street, King's Cross.

LEWIS, I. J., M.D., 60 Booth Street, Charlton, 46 Stafford Street, Manchester, and Rockingham Street, Leeds.

LUCAS and Co., London Road, Liverpool, and Rockingham Place, Wade Lane, Leeds.

LOWE, JAMES (late Strand Museum, London), now in Manchester.

MANTELL, GEO. HUNTER, Institute of Anatomy, Birmingham.

MARSTON, BARKER, 49 Berners Street, and late of the Royal Institute of Anatomy and Science, 369 Oxford Street.

RICORD, J. T., Fraser Street, London Road, Liverpool.

RUSSELL, 28 Clarence Road, Kentish Town.

SCOTT (addresses himself "to ladies" only), 15 Henrietta Street, Cavendish Square.

SNOW, 38 Gilbert Street, Oxford Street.

SMITH, or SMITH and Co., 8 Burton Crescent.

SWEDOUR, 102 Seal Street, Liverpool.

THOMPSON, 21 Harrington Square, Hampstead Road

WATSON, 1 South Crescent, Bedford Square (*see* Hill and Hillier).

WATSON, THOMAS, (*alias* KIRKHAM), 110 Water Street Manchester.

WHITCHURCH, THOS., W., 53 Tib Street, Manchester.

N.B.—There are of course an immense number of other quacks—hand-bill distributors, whose bills are also to be seen posted in the public urinals—who, in a small way, carry on an equally nefarious trade.

A few words of general caution, I imagine, are all that is necessary in reference to them—*Never consult any person issuing these kind of bills.*

REVELATIONS OF QUACKERY.

LETTER I.

SIR,—With your permission I purpose, in a series of letters of which this is the first, to lay before your readers a complete dissection or relation of the schemes and the plans pursued by the advertising quacks, first to entrap the suffering public, and next, by a cruel system of extortion and terrorism, to rob them.

I would, by way of preface, remark that, during the thirty-one years I have been in practice in this metropolis, I have constantly had to deplore the ignorance and credulity displayed by a class of patients with whom I have come into almost daily contact. I allude to the victims of sexual hypochondriasis, nervous debility, spermatorrhœa *real* or *imaginary* (more often the latter), syphilis, and other maladies special to the genito-urinary organs. Deeply impressed by the large amount of both mental and physical suffering hence resulting, I have lost no opportunity of exposing the nefarious proceedings of the numerous impostors who, under assumed names and false medical titles, prey on this class of patients. Indeed, so early as the years 1846 and 1847, under my present signature of "Detector," I, in some letters which appeared in the *Lancet*, directed the attention of the Profession and the public to the nefarious proceedings of the quacks in question, and I have reason to know that these exposures in many instances saved hapless patients from falling into their toils. Nevertheless, the limited good thus effected has fallen far short of the need of exposure and relief required.

The recent trial and conviction of the so-called Dr. Henery and his accomplice have forcibly directed the attention of

the Profession, the public, and a portion of the newspaper press to the system of terrorism and extortion which is so fearfully and successfully carried on by the numerous empirics who infest not only this metropolis but most large provincial towns. On all sides it is felt that some more determined steps should be adopted to arrest their hitherto unchecked career. But, notwithstanding this unanimity, the accomplishment of the desirable object is surrounded by innumerable difficulties, and this in a great measure through the guilty connivance and greed of a portion of the newspaper press. However, this is a subject to which I shall presently more amply refer. Here I would merely remark, it appears to me that the cure for these crying evils may be described in two words—*Publicity, non-publicity*. On the one hand, let us have a wide-spread publicity given to the evil practices of the quacks ; on the other, let us insist on the *non-publicity* by the press of their advertisements.

To your valuable Journal and to you, Sir, who have already so fearlessly contended against this monster evil, I look for the former. For the latter, I shall appeal to the honour and morality of the proprietors of our newspapers.

It is, Sir, undoubtedly, in a great degree, through the sordid connivance of, I grieve to say, a majority of the newspaper press that this crying nuisance of quackery and obscene advertisements has hitherto been able to defy the execration of all right-minded men. Without such aid, the miscreants could never have obtained more than an obscure existence, and a very limited power of doing evil ; for they could otherwise have aspired to no higher position and no greater gains than those obtainable by thrusting their filthy handbills into the hands of passengers in the public streets, or by sticking up their announcements in urinals and other by-places ; and thus we should never have been disgusted, nor public decency and honesty outraged, by the sight of these vagabonds lolling in their carriages in the parks and other places of public resort. That such things have been, are, I repeat, entirely due to the unscrupulous greed of a certain class of newspaper proprietors ; and should these evils continue, we shall have to ascribe their maintenance to a similar cause. And now

let me pause, to point out what has been the reply of some of our newspapers to the late universal exclamation of disgust at the proceedings of the class of men represented by Dr. Henery, and the demand made in consequence for the exclusion of such advertisements from the papers. How have the proprietors of the newspapers in question responded to this appeal made to them by the public, the Profession, and their own respectable contemporaries? Have they at once met the appeal in the only way that it should have been responded to—viz., by a prompt exclusion of the objectionable advertisements from their columns? Not they; on the contrary, with a cuteness and a greed equal to that of their customers they have turned the appeal made to them into a means of *self-profit*! To this end, availing themselves of the late outcry against the quacks and their advertisements, they have in some instances increased their charges for this class of advertisements some *three or four hundred per cent.*! The facts, then, stand thus:—These honest and modest proprietors having learnt by the recent trial how the quacks fleece their victims, they in their turn, taking advantage of the information they have acquired against their customers, coolly proceed to *plunder the plunderers*. You, Sir, have already by the admirable leader which appeared in your Journal of November 2nd of the last year, castigated and exposed the tergiversation displayed between the high-sounding theoretical sensational article of the editor against the quacks and the daily act of his paymaster, the proprietor. I need not, therefore, dwell on this point. I would merely remark that whilst the probably ill-paid, high-minded, and talented journalist is fiercely denouncing the enormity of this evil, *his master* is quietly pocketing, according to his new rate of charges and the number of advertisements now being daily inserted, between *three and four thousand pounds per annum*! You, in the article to which I have referred, have quoted the sensational editorial which appeared on the subject of Dr. Henery and his *confrères*; let me now cap it by quotations from an equally sensational leader in reference to the action of the unfortunate Serjeant Glover against Pesigny:—

‘We trust,’ writes the editor, “that we have heard the last

of Mr. Serjeant Glover and the *Morning Chronicle*. The articles which he wrote or caused to be written, the dirty work which he agreed to do and was not paid for doing, the perquisites which he hoped to receive and was disappointed in obtaining, the interviews which he had with the hangers-on of underlings at the Imperial Court, the whole shabby history of the manner in which he dragged through the mire, not only his own name and a newspaper of good repute, but the character of British journalism—all these things are written in the records of our law-courts, and may be perused by any one who likes to rake up an unpleasant and discreditable episode in the history of the English Press," &c. I will conclude with a quotation having reference to the non-payment of the Serjeant:—"To those who are contemplating such a transaction, we would give one word of advice, and that is to see the price paid down before completing the transfer. This is exactly what the Serjeant failed to do. He sold his independence and has nothing to show for it."

For the edification of your readers and the improvement of the moral intelligence of both editor and proprietor, I will venture on a paraphrase of the foregoing:—

"We trust we have seen the last of the filthy advertisements which have too long disgraced the columns of our daily contemporary, and that he will cease to be the hireling and to do the dirty work of the quacks, and also in the future refrain from dragging through the mire of quackery, not only his own paper, but the character of British journalism. To those who continue to pander to this nuisance we would give a word of advice, and that is, to take warning by the unfortunate Serjeant, and give *no trust*. This is exactly what the Serjeant did, and he wasn't paid. He sold his independence and has nothing to show! We take care to be paid in advance. We have sold ourselves, like the Serjeant, to the 'unclean thing;' but, unlike the Serjeant who got nothing, we realise from three to four thousand pounds per annum by the sale. So hurrah for quackery, and a fig for public decency!"

LETTER II.

SIR,—In my last I exposed the disgraceful part hitherto and still played by a majority of the newspaper press in conjunction with the quacks, and I showed that in one instance alone one of the newspapers which had thus prostituted itself would derive thereby an income considerably over £3,000 per annum from the insertion of the advertisements of only some five or six of the quacks.

That these *mauvais sujets* can afford to submit to this outrageous levy of black mail in the instance of one paper only, is of itself a frightful and melancholy evidence of the extent and the success with which the quacks carry on their frauds and extortions. In the face of such facts, I fear it is in vain to appeal, either to the sense of honour, decency, or shame of the newspaper proprietors referred to. Their greed appears to have deadened within them all these qualities, if indeed, they ever possessed them. Were it otherwise, I would ask if there are among them any occupying the position of husbands, fathers, and brothers? If so, do they not tremble, and should they not blush, when they see the female members of their families perusing the contents of their journals, at the imminent risk of having their attention drawn to, and their curiosity, if no worse feelings, excited by the perusal of such advertisements as those headed "Manhood," "The Silent Friend," and others of a cognate nature?

But supposing them to be regardless of the mental purity of their own families, I would then ask how they can reconcile it with their position as public journalists, or, in other words, "*custodes morum*," thus to assist in disseminating the moral poison contained in these disgusting announcements? Further, do they think such conduct a fit and appropriate return for the support and patronage which they enjoy from the heads of families? But even apart from all considerations of public morals and decency, there are other reasons, no less cogent, to be urged against this traffic in obscenity and fraud, and not unfrequently murder, carried on by the newspaper press, with few exceptions—"rari nantes in gurgite

vasto"—in conjunction with nostrum-vendors and quacks. To prove this, it is only necessary to allude to the total wreck of happiness, ending, in many instances, in hopeless mental aberration, caused by the destruction of health and the pecuniary ruin which too often overtake such of their readers as may be induced by these specious advertisements to apply to any one of the empirics.

I would fain hope that, after the exposure of the recent trial and the universal reprobation which has been expressed by the public and the high-class journals, led by the *Times*, the conductors of the metropolitan and provincial press will, for their own credit, put a stop to this monstrous nuisance: but should their love of gain continue to prevail over what should be their duty and honour, I then trust that their readers will, by ceasing to take their papers, teach them that they will no longer be allowed with impunity thus to offend against the laws of decency and humanity. Here I would remark that amidst all this compound of suffering, credulity, quack fraud and extortion, and newspaper corruption, not the least astonishing part is the carelessness, not to say recklessness, displayed by the "heads of families," in allowing journals thus offending to enter the sacred precincts of their domestic circles. How can they reconcile this with the watchful care parents should display in protecting their offspring from mental contamination? Where is the father or mother that would not tremble and blush to see their daughters reading the foul allusions to "secret diseases," "self-pollution," and "sexual excesses," which abound in this class of advertisements? Is it in nature that young girls just budding into womanhood, and at a period when the sexual functions are developing themselves, should read such announcements without having their curiosity, if no worse feelings, excited thereby? What, Sir, if seeking to gratify the curiosity thus excited, they should send by post for the "*sealed book*"? Oh! what irreparable moral contamination would then ensue from the perusal of all the sensual details which such books for the most part contain. Then, again, think of the effect of the hideous pictures—illustrations—as they are called, which these publications contain, on the feel-

ings and minds of girls. Sacred Heaven! if we did not daily see it, who would believe that parents would be so criminally careless? But it is not only in regard to the female members of a family that the admission of this class of papers into the domestic circle is to be most strongly condemned; it is equally to be reprobated in respect to the interest and the welfare of our sons. Refraining altogether from a reference to the moral contamination contained in them, I would just glance at the evils hence resulting from another point of view. These advertisements are the traps set by a cowardly class of miscreants to catch the young and credulous, suffering, in reality or imagination, under any one of the maladies, the pretended cure of which forms the basis of their frauds and extortions. How, then, can fathers be so blind, be so cruelly thoughtless, as to incur the risk of their sons being thus entrapped into the merciless toils of these vagabonds? I confess that to me such conduct is perfectly inexplicable.

In my next I shall treat of the quacks themselves; that is, I shall lay before your readers an account of the manner in which the quack firms are first established. I shall then relate to you the schemes they adopt to palm themselves on the public as duly-qualified medical men, and thus entrap the suffering and credulous; and, finally, I shall expose the various dodges they practise in order to plunder those who are so unfortunate as to fall into their toils. In this narration I shall refer only to the proceedings of two or three of the more notorious quacks; for it is obvious that it would be impossible, within the space of these communications, to refer pointedly to each one of the numerous impostors who infest this metropolis. Indeed, if it were possible, it would scarcely be necessary to my object, inasmuch as the exposure of the means whereby some of the principal quacks carry on their nefarious trade will serve as a type of the methods of fraud and extortion which the whole gang more or less pursue, and will be a sufficient warning against seeking the aid of any one of them.

LETTER III.

SIR,—Some of the principal founders and proprietors of the quack firms, and the self-dubbed surgeons and M.D.'s, are more or less connected with each other by the ties of consanguinity or intermarriage; but as it is evident it would materially interfere with their "fleecing operations" were they all to advertise under their *real names*, they each adopt some *nom de guerre*, in order to baffle inquiries respecting their origin and their qualifications. Indeed, this is, for the most part, a plan adopted by nearly every one of the quacks; thus, the now notorious name of "Dr. Henery" was an assumed one. The way in which they carry out this notable contrivance shows that they are perfect masters of the deceptive, although utterly ignorant of the healing art, for they generally select for adoption the name of some eminent surgeon or physician, and under the shield of this "*clarum et venerabile nomen*" set up their Priapian firm. Thus the honoured names of Bright, Brodie, Cooper, Watson—names associated with every idea of unsullied integrity and well-earned professional fame—are dragged through the mire of empiricism, and degraded into the service of quacks, as a means of levying black mail from the credulity and sufferings of humanity.

Having thus selected a name under which to commence their career of imposition, they generally hire a house in some private street, leading out of some one of the great thoroughfares, and then the door-posts on each side are decorated with a flaring brass plate, bearing the assumed name and the lying addition of "surgeon" or "consulting surgeon," Dr. This or Dr. That. The outer door is left open, whilst an inner is often decorated with another plate bearing the assumed name and false titles.

These arrangements completed, men are stationed in the most public thoroughfares of the metropolis, to thrust hand-bills containing filthy allusions to certain unfortunate practices which, there is much reason to fear, are too prevalent amongst thoughtless youths. These papers also contain reference to

those diseases which result from impure sexual intercourse —“ secret diseases,” to use the quack phrase. The immediate effects and ultimate consequences of these maladies are described in exaggerated terms; and, finally, unbounded promises of “*speedy*” and, above all, “*secret cure*” are made to those who will apply to these eminent surgeons. Similar handbills are also stuck up in every urinal and by-passage, and, in short, wherever there is the remotest chance of their catching the eye of any unfortunate and credulous sufferer under any one of these diseases. Simultaneously with the issue of the bills the more aspiring and higher grade of quacks (for there are grades even in this infamous trade) cause advertisements of their so-called works to be inserted in the columns of such of the metropolitan and provincial newspapers as will degrade themselves by the insertion of these filthy announcements of the publication of the “Silent Friend,” “Manhood,” “Manly Vigour,” “Marriage,” and other sensational titles.

There is another deception which they practise in connection with their advertisements which is well calculated to deceive the ordinary class of patients into the belief that they are regularly-educated surgeons. I allude to the numerous extracts of seemingly favourable reviews of their works which they append to their advertisements, and in which *parents*, *guardians*, and *patients* are alike recommended “to peruse the valuable remarks which are contained therein (their books) on the diseases of which it so ably treats.” The following is one of the modes which they practise in order to give an appearance of reality to these laudatory reviews :— They first themselves write or cause them to be written; then the address is annexed to the advertisements of their books and the whole paid for as an ordinary advertisement. After it has thus appeared in some paper, the whole or a portion of the address is annexed to the advertisements inserted in other newspapers with *the name of the paper in which it originally appeared as a paid advertisement at the end*, thus causing an ordinary reader to think that the quotation is a portion of a favourable review of the work by the editor of the paper whose name is thus appended, instead of being what it really

is—viz., a *portion of an address inserted and paid for by themselves*. However, ingenious as this plan is, it is yet surpassed by a still bolder flight of impudence. Thus another of their plans is to insert apparent quotations of reviews eulogising their books, and then append to them as thus—‘Herald,’ ‘Daily Morning paper,’ ‘Medical Journal.’ These descriptions of the quoted journals are so vague, that no contradiction can be given to these lying addenda, and thus they, for the most part, pass current with the credulous public as quotations from veritable reviews. That they do so I know from having been frequently asked by patients how it is these men secure such favourable reviews from newspapers; and they have further told me it was in consequence of believing those reviews to be real that they have been induced to consult them. Again, some of these advertising imposters have recently adopted the plan of appending to their names as of Lock Hospital, thus seeking to create the false belief that they are attached to the hospitals whose name they thus prostitute. Then, of recent years, the museum dodge, with “lectures” *twice daily*, has been much affected by this class of men, not only in London, but in some of the large provincial towns.

In addition to these means of attracting the notice of the suffering public, they have of late years adopted the practice of sending their filthy books through the post, addressed to householders all over the country; and numerous complaints have appeared in the journals in respect to this nuisance. A patient informed me a little time since that several of this class of books had been sent to his uncle, an old gentleman over seventy years of age, and were opened by his aunt, who was at a loss to understand why such books were sent to her husband; and talking the other day with another old patient of mine, Colonel —, on this subject, he informed me that all the officers at Aldershot, both married and unmarried, were annoyed by this class of book being constantly sent to them.

Well, Sir, with their schemes thus fully concocted, and, in truth, admirably adapted to their ends, they keep up an incessant course of advertisements in all the daily and weekly

metropolitan and provincial newspapers whose proprietors will disgrace themselves by inserting them. Nay, some of these men even extend their advertising operations to our colonies. The reader may judge of the extent and success with which those pretended surgeons and physicians carry on their frauds, when he learns that the annual cost of the advertisements inserted by the principal quacks in the metropolis and provinces may be estimated, without taking into the account the cost of the colonial advertisements, collectively at about £50,000! When to this almost incredible sum is added the cost of the paper, printing of their handbills, books, &c., the rent of their large and expensive houses, the maintenance of their establishments, their carriages, country houses, and the cost of the notorious luxury in which they and their families live—to say nothing of the large fortunes some of them are known to have realized—the gross annual amount derived from their nefarious trade must be truly enormous.

I have already referred to the manner in which one journal has converted the recent outcry against the quacks into a source of self-profit, and whilst writing these letters, I have been so struck with the confirmatory evidence which its advertising sheet affords, as to the expenses incurred by the quacks in advertising, that I cannot refrain from reverting to the subject.

Now, it is well known that there has existed in this metropolis, for some forty years past, a family which, under various assumed names, has carried on in different localities sundry establishments for the cure of “SECRET DISEASES.” Well, Sir, at the present moment some of the members of this notorious family are carrying on, under assumed names, no less than three large establishments of this kind. And I have taken note of the number of advertisements inserted in the journal referred to, for six consecutive days, by them, having reference to their books, medicines, and practice; and they number no less than forty-one advertisements in six days!

Now, if they pay, and I believe they do, according to the new scale of charges, the cost in the six days will amount to

no less a sum than FIFTY-FIVE POUNDS NINETEEN SHILLINGS a week!! being at the rate of about TWO THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND NINETY POUNDS PER ANNUM!!! This, recollect, paid to one paper only by one firm—I say one firm—although there are three establishments advertised, inasmuch as it is notorious that they form one firm. Indeed, I had a laughable illustration of this fact the other day. A tradesman who consulted me informed me that prior to my seeing him he had applied to Messrs. No. 1 and Co., and paid them the modest sum of ten guineas for a promised cure of his malady. However, the cure was not effected, and hopeless of one from them he ceased his attendance and ultimately applied to Messrs. No. 2 and Co. Here he was shown into a room where two gentlemen were seated writing, who inquired into the nature of his malady, and then left him, saying that Mr. ——— would shortly see him. After a considerable interval the door opened, and to his surprise and horror in walked, as Mr. No. 2, the *gent* he had already seen at Messrs. No. 1 and Co.'s. A mutual recognition of course ensued. Mr. ——— expressed his regret that the patient had not been satisfied with his treatment, and tried it on to induce him again to place himself under his care. However, the patient would not listen to this, gave him a guinea, and requested Mr. No. 1 *alias* No. 2, to open the door and allow him to get away, saying he had no desire to have anything more to do with him. But to revert to the immediate object of these remarks.

These facts, as to the enormous expenses incurred by the owners of such establishments in advertising and otherwise, prove how numerous a class must be the *real* or *imaginary* sufferers under those diseases, the pretended cure of which forms the groundwork of the success these men meet with, whilst they equally afford the most conclusive evidence of the injurious effects these maladies produce on the mental faculties of their victims. Otherwise, they would not so readily, as they for the most part do, fall into the toils set for them by these arch-impostors. A no less remarkable fact is, that it would appear, from the enormous amount of the annual expenditure of these men and the large fees they ob-

tain from their patients, that the majority of their dupes must rank amongst the educated and affluent classes, and not amongst the poor uneducated and ignorant, as one would *a priori* more naturally think.

In my next I shall show the system of intimidation and extortion pursued towards their dupes by the quacks in order to obtain the means to meet their gigantic expenditure ; and as I do so I shall from time to time illustrate my remarks by the relation of some extraordinary and startling cases showing their method of practice.

LETTER IV.

SIR,—It was my intention in this letter to have shown up the system of intimidation and extortion pursued by the quack fraternity ; but a case has just come under my notice which is so *apropos* and illustrative of the hospital dodge I referred to in my last, that I must postpone my intentions in this respect in order to lay before your readers matter no less instructive and interesting in reference to the organising system of deception pursued by the class of men I am referring to. I have stated that recently certain persons have adopted the plan of advertising themselves in connection with some well-known hospital in such a manner as to create a belief that they are connected medically with the institution to which they refer. Notably amongst these are a certain Dr. Hammond and a Dr. Watson. Now, when the latter was recently summoned to a police-court, the secretary of the Lock Hospital attended at the office to give evidence that he had no such connection with the hospital as would justify his associating his name with that institution in the manner he did in his advertisements. However, leaving this individual for a future notice, I now turn to his *confrère* in the hospital dodge—Dr. Hammond. This is the kind of advertisement which appears in the newspapers in reference to this individual and his practice :—

"DR. HAMMOND (OF THE LOCK HOSPITAL),
 (Member the College Physicians and Surgeons).

"ON the 'Self-Cure of Nervous and Physical Debility, Decline of Manly Vigour, Infection, &c., with Self-Curatives.' Post free 2 stamps, by Dr. HAMMOND, 11 Charlotte street, Bedford Square, London.

"N.B.—Recent cases cured in a few days. 'Means of Cure' by letter, or personally from 9 till 2, and 6 to 8. Sundays, 10 to 12."

Now, Sir, I have sought in vain in the Medical Directories, in the 'Medical Register,' and the rolls of the College of Surgeons and Physicians, for this Dr. Hammond, of 11 Charlotte street, Bedford Square. Do not put me down as very green for taking this trouble; I only did so that I might make "assurance doubly sure." Believe me, I never expected to find this worthy among the recorded members of the College of Physicians or Surgeons of England. The wording of the advertisement is itself quite sufficient with a man of the world to show the false pretence and assumption. For mark it only says "Member the College of Physicians and Surgeons;" it does not even venture on the *of*, as thus "Member *of* the College of Physicians and Surgeons." Now this may appear as quibbling on my part; but when I come to other matters, your readers will see these trivial omissions are part and parcel of a course of well concocted and systematic deceit, all of which, as in the reference made to the Lock Hospital, have but one object, namely, to create a false belief as to the party's *status* as a professional man.

A young man has just consulted me, fancying he had involuntary seminal losses on voiding his urine and on other occasions. But I found that he was only an imaginary sufferer in this respect.

He informed me that, some time prior to his consulting me, he had been induced, by seeing an advertisement somewhat similar to the above, to consult Dr. Hammond by letter. In reply to his communication, the Doctor (?) informed him that he (the patient) must wear the "self-adjusting curative" and take certain medicines, and promised if he would remit two guineas he would send him the "curative." Accordingly, the patient remitted that amount; but, to use his own words,

“to his surprise and horror, instead of receiving in return the ‘curative belt,’ he only got some bottles of medicine and a lotion to rub over the penis and testicles.” Upon this he wrote to ask why the curative belt had not been sent according to promise. In reply he received the following letter, which I give you *verbatim* :—

“Dr. Hammond, F.A.S., M.R.A.S.,

H. G. St. Mary's, King's College, the
Lock, and St. George's Hospitals,
LONDON.

Member of the Academy of Sciences, “11 Charlotte Street,
Fellow of the Imperial Institute of Bedford Square, W.C.
France, Externe Venereal Hospital, London, Aug. 31st, 1864.
&c. &c.

“DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your favour with enclosure. Before advising, I have again gone into your case, and am decidedly of opinion that the principal seat of disease is in the seminal vessels, which have become greatly relaxed in their tone and power of retention. There appears, also, to be a slight disease of the kidneys. I am also of opinion that the semen passes constantly away in the urine, and the result of this drain on the constitution must be obvious, when I tell you that one drop of semen is equal to forty drops of blood. This vital waste is not only capable of causing all the symptoms you detail, but such is the sympathy existing between the generative functions and the brain, that should this drain of the most vital of all your secretions be not immediately arrested, your whole system must suffer very serious derangement, whilst the organs of generation themselves will become vitiated and relapse into a state of utter impotency. This must necessarily destroy all desire for sexual intercourse, with entire loss of erectile power, withering and wasting of the penis ; and, in addition, affections of the head and insanity are among the direst results of such a state, and though you do not complain of such, still you have reason to fear their appearances. Severe as is the injury already inflicted, it is most fortunate that you have applied for relief before that injury had progressed from stage

to stage, until cure would be impossible. I am glad to acquaint you that I can effect a perfect and permanent cure, and I must urge on you the necessity of facilitating the same by attending to all my instructions, which are simple and easy of application. I advise local and constitutional treatment; and consequently you must wear the 'French Self-adjusting Curative,' which, with the other restoratives and adjuncts, shall be forwarded on receipt of remittance, as per annexed statement.

"I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

"C. D. HAMMOND, M.D.

" 1st Class 'Curative'	-	-	£2	2	0
Astringent Lotion	-	-	1	1	0
Usual Fee	-	-	1	1	0
					<hr/>
					£4 4 0
					<hr/>
Balance	-	-	£2	2	0"

On receipt of this, the patient remitted another two guineas, for the "curative belt." I have it now before me, and it is a common suspensory bandage, with three or four pieces of metal about the band surrounding the waist; and attached to the part where, in a common suspensory bandage, the penis passes through, there is a string of pieces of metal, through which the penis is passed, and by which it is then encircled. The whole thing for which two guineas was charged would cost about three or four shillings at the utmost. I need hardly say the patient derived no benefit from the "curative belt" so pompously referred to in the address I shall at the end of this submit to your readers. Indeed, the wearing of these pieces of metal around the penis produced considerable irritation in the urethra.

The patient in handing this letter to me called it a diabolical letter, and it is truly one. Fancy a poor, nervous boy, full of all manner of imaginary ailments, receiving such a communication, everything said that could possibly be said in order to augment his existing fears. Mark the assertion or assumption that there existed "slight disease of the kidneys," and that semen passed constantly away in the urine

although no examination of that fluid had taken place, and, consequently, no truthful or competent opinion could be given, one way or the other. However, I may say that, on my examining the urine, I failed to detect any trace of such seminal losses, or of the existence of even "slight disease of the kidneys." Then, again, note the deliberate and cold-blooded threat of approaching insanity. Gracious heavens! the very implication in some cases would produce this "direst" result in many over-anxious and nervous patients.

Now, Sir, I will call your attention to this portion of the heading of the foregoing letter:—

"Dr. Hammond, F.A.S., M.R.A.S., H.G. St. Mary's, King's College, the Lock, and St. George's Hospital, London."

What F.A.S., M.R.A.S., may mean, I am at a loss to understand, but I think I have been more fortunate in my attempts in elucidating the H.G. standing before the hospitals enumerated. At the first blush, I confess I was puzzled as to what this meant, but on reflection it struck me it might mean Honorary Governor. I determined to test the correctness of this conclusion, and to this end, I sent the letter by a trusty messenger to make the necessary inquiries of the different officials connected with these hospitals. I then learnt that, in order to obtain a peg whereon thus to associate his name with these institutions, he had subscribed different sums to their funds. The worthy secretary of the Lock was especially indignant, I was informed, at the way in which the name of this noble institution was daily prostituted in the advertisements of these men. He further stated, that on a second donation being forwarded, it had been returned to the would-be donor.

Here is pretty strong evidence of the lie by implication. I shall conclude this by submitting to your readers' notice as choice a compost of bestiality and humbug as it has ever been my fate to meet with, even in searching through the foul obscenity of the quack pamphlet:—

"DR. HAMMOND'S

S E L F - A D J U S T I N G C U R A T I V E

(FOR SPERMATORRHOEA AND GENITAL DEBILITY),

Protected, under 'The Great Seal,' by Her Majesty's Letters Patent; by France, Belgium, Vienna, &c. (observe Diplômes), and

is the only Patented Invention of the kind in existence in Great Britain; and which Dr. Hammond will undertake to prove (if necessary) under a forfeiture of £500. Read 'Patent Gazette,' and note the high titles and distinguished Diplomas, in confirmation of the Inventor's remarks, rendered necessary by abortive attempts at imitation,"

CONSISTS OF A

Small, elegant, unique, and scientific apparatus, adapted with exquisite accuracy to encircle the Generative Organs, and acts as a powerful stimulative invigorator and contractor of the relaxed seminal vessels. To which is added a SAFETY VALVE, which prevents and STOPS EMISSIONS. It is made of two qualities, and denominated First and Second Class. Prices:—First Class, £2 2s.; Second Class, £1 1s. The former being much superior, and is also charged with stronger invigorative and potent chemicals, which become more quickly absorbed by the seminal vessels, and thus effects a more speedy cure. It has affixed to it a scientifically adapted SUSPENSORY BANDAGE, containing a continuous current of electricity, which is taken up by the whole system, infusing new life and 'manly vigour' into the debilitated or relaxed frame, and also affords great support and comfort to the testicles and generative organs.

"NOTICE.—In complicated cases of long standing, and where erectile power has been lost or suspended, and the constitution become shattered, or the brain unduly taxed from any cause, so that the memory or mind is impaired, and the system nearly drained of its 'vital essence,' it is *absolutely necessary* that those losses be replenished by creating NEW BRAIN and NEW SEMINAL FLUID. Chemistry and deep research have taught us what those elements are, and how to apply them; therefore, in such cases, THE RESTORATIVE POWDERS and SEMINAL REPLENISHER should be had recourse to. The same can be had in cases, from 21s., 42s., and upwards. The SEMINAL REPLENISHER is also prepared in small phials, which can be carried in the waistcoat-pocket.

"N.B. Those unable to cohabit satisfactorily, from whatever cause, should never be without a supply, as they not only create erectile power and brain matter, but likewise replenishes the seminal fluid, lost by too frequent cohabitation."

The late Sir B. Brodie once remarked to me, in the greatest astonishment, on reading certain letters written by a patient to one of the quacks, "Is it possible men can write such letters!" What would have been his astonishment, had he lived, to hear of men being so credulous as to believe in the

Brain Powder and Seminal Replenisher? For my part, I am utterly at a loss which most to marvel at, the credulity displayed on the one part—the supreme impudence on the other; and can only exclaim, in reference to the latter, my earnest wish that there might be


“Put in every honest hand a whip,
To lash such rascals naked through the world,
Even from the east to the west!”

P.S.—At the moment of correcting this letter for press, there appears in the newspapers an account of a “*Remarkable Suicide*,” the particulars of which confirm, in an extraordinary and awful manner, the truth of my statements, and I now append it to this letter as an illustration of the truth of the foregoing remarks.

REMARKABLE SUICIDE.

The following is from the *Daily Telegraph*, of Jan. 21, 1865, and the case speaks for itself:—

On Friday evening an inquest was held at the Chequers Inn, Hingham, Kent, before Thomas Hills, Esq., coroner, on the body of James Miles, a foreman in the employ of Thomas French Nettleingham, Esq., merchant, at Gravesend. The deceased was found drowned in the canal on Thursday evening last.

Sarah Reed, a widow, residing at Gravesend, identified the body as that of her nephew by marriage, and said he was married on Christmas-eve last, at Kingston. I have lived with the deceased and his wife for the last month. The deceased was twenty-four years of age, and I believe lived with his wife very comfortably. A few months ago the deceased was rather queer in his manner, and appeared very low-spirited, but he got better afterwards. About a fortnight ago he received something which made him worse. On Wednesday morning he was very desponding, and at dinner he complained of his head and stomach. The deceased told his wife that he did not know what  was about, and could not eat. At about five minutes to two in the afternoon he ~~kissed~~ his wife and shook hands with her, wishing her good-

oye. He then lit his pipe and went out. I never saw him alive afterwards. He was always on good terms with his wife since their marriage.

Police-constable Mitchell, who was present at the finding of the body, said : I found several papers and printed bills in deceased's jacket-pocket. They are those now produced. Two are from Dr. De Roos, of Tavistock-square, and one from a Dr. Smith, of Burton-crescent, London. They are what are called quack handbills. At the residence of deceased I found this pamphlet. It is a work on secret diseases. I did not find any medicine at deceased's house.

Thomas French Nettleingham deposed : I am a merchant, and carry on business at Gravesend. The deceased has been in my employ for the last six months as foreman at the wharf. He appeared to be rather weak-minded, and seemed languid and dull when we were very busy, and frequently forgot orders that were given to him. On Wednesday morning last deceased was much flushed. He has been very abstemious and steady ever since he has been in my employ. The deceased never made his appearance after dinner. His accounts are perfectly correct.

J. J. Ely deposed : I am a surgeon, practising at Chatham. I have examined the deceased, and have not found any marks of violence. From an inspection of the papers found upon the deceased, I have no doubt whatever they would cause a great depression of spirits, and tend to a person committing suicide. Persons suffering from disease are susceptible to depression of mind. The papers or bills are issued by quacks. It is not unusual for cases of suicide to arise from reading pamphlets similar to those produced.

At this stage of the inquiry Mr. Nettleingham asked the coroner to take the evidence of John Willsher Packham, a fellow-workman of the deceased, who had found a large packet of letters from Dr. De Roos, of Tavistock-square, London. The witness deposed that he found the articles now produced in an upstairs room in deceased's house. They consisted of two large-sized tins, which evidently had contained medicine supplied to the deceased.

The coroner then read to the jury several letters from Dr.

De Roos, which stated that the deceased must still continue with the medicine, and impressing upon him the necessity for remitting money, as he did not make it a practice to give credit to his patients, and stating that, in consequence of having numerous correspondents in all parts of England, he hoped he would not neglect writing to him, as he (Dr. De Roos) might forget the case. About thirty letters had been sent to deceased in the course of ten months.

The Coroner summed up. He said : Gentlemen, you have heard the evidence which has been adduced. From this it would appear that the deceased had, in all probability, been reading the pamphlets which had been produced, and you have remarked that on opening one of these pamphlets the word "suicide" appeared written prominently round the margin. The number of letters from Dr. De Roos, of Tavistock-square—letters which it is impossible to stigmatise too strongly, and which, when read by the weak-minded, would lead them to the commission of suicide—must be noted as a weighty fact, and they tend to prove that the mind of the deceased had been deeply harassed by them.

The jury returned a verdict to the effect that deceased had committed suicide whilst in an unsound mind.

After the delivery of the verdict a consultation between the coroner and the jury took place, which resulted in the foreman intimating that they considered deceased's insanity to have been brought on by the perusal of certain pamphlets issued by, and letters received from, Dr. De Roos, of Tavistock-square, London. The jury expressed a wish that the press would take notice of this addendum to the verdict.

The coroner ordered that the pamphlets and letters should be kept in safe custody.

LETTER V.

SIR,—For the better understanding of the following remarks, I would observe that the unhappy persons who for the most part apply to the kind of practitioners I am dissecting may be conveniently divided into three distinct classes :—

First, those who are suffering under some form of *venereal disorders*, or, in quack phraseology, “*secret diseases*.”

Secondly, those labouring under some malady or derangement of the generative system, as, for instance, spermatorrhœa.

And thirdly, those suffering from sexual hypochondriasis, under the influence of which malady they may imagine themselves to be the victims of spermatorrhœa, or even to be *impotent*. This latter class of patients, I believe compose by far the greater portion of those who apply to the advertising quacks ; whilst, for reasons which I shall by-and-by state, they are certainly those from whom they reap the greater part of their ill-acquired wealth.

Now, the victims comprised in the first class are most often young men who have for the first time contracted some kind of venereal disorder ; such patients are generally dreadfully alarmed when they find themselves diseased, and are almost always exceedingly anxious to conceal their illness from their friends and relatives. Under these feelings they eagerly grasp at the delusive phantom of “*prompt and secret cure*,” which the quacks in their advertisements, present as the bait to entrap the credulous and unwary.

As an example, I will now relate what occurred to a patient on his applying to one of the quacks in consequence of finding himself the subject of a chancre. After undergoing an examination, he was informed that he was labouring under syphilis, and that he (the quack) had *two modes of curing* that disease ; one by the administration of “*mercury*,” and the other “*without mercury*.” The treatment with mercury, it was true, sometimes effectually removed the disease, said the quack ; but, on the other hand, it sometimes failed ;

may, not only failed, but gave rise to severe "mercurial maladies," more serious and dangerous than the original disorder. In confirmation of this, he then submitted to the patient's inspection a numerous collection of plates, containing hideous representations of dreadful eruptions and sores covering all parts of the body. I need hardly say that the sight of these horrid pictures is enough to frighten patients out of their senses, especially the young and inexperienced. Well, the quack having thus, as he doubtless hoped, sufficiently frightened the patient, then proceeded to inform him that, by the "*non-mercurial treatment*," all these dangers were avoided and the cure assured. The patient thereupon naturally asked why he did not always adopt it. To this the quack replied, because the remedy employed in the treatment in question *was very expensive—a preparation of gold!* In answer to a further inquiry as to the relative expense of these two treatments, the patient was informed that he could be cured for ten or twenty pounds by the *mercurial treatment*, but the safest and best—that by the golden one—would cost *one hundred guineas! which sum must be paid before the treatment commenced.* Frightened by the hideous pictures before him, and at the same time charmed and seduced by the high-flown encomiums which the quack pronounced on the "*golden method*," the patient became exceedingly anxious to be treated on this plan of cure. The quack on his part was equally ready to take the case in hand. Under these circumstances, the only stumbling-block was the patient's inability to pay the money down. However, as the quack had gleaned from the patient that he had about half the required sum in a savings-bank, he (the quack) with much affectation of liberality, agreed to accept that sum down, and the balance by weekly instalments of twenty or thirty shillings. The patient at once agreed to this proposal: but then arose another difficulty, from the fact that it required some days' notice before the money could be drawn from the bank, whilst the quack could not incur the expense, as he said, of preparing the invaluable *golden remedy* unless he was assured of his money, or a great part, in return. On the other hand, the patient was equally reluctant to postpone the treatment.

How to solve this difficulty was the point. The quack must be secured in preparing the *expensive remedy*. The patient desired immediate treatment. At last the quack, with astounding impudence, demanded that a watch and chain which the patient wore should be left in pledge with him until the patient obtained the money from the bank, promising in that case that he would at once supply the patient with the remedies. Here, happily, for once, greed and cunning overreached itself. This evidence of rapacity opened the patient's eyes to the true character of the man, and he immediately refused compliance with the demand and declined to place himself under the treatment. The following day I saw him and had the above narrative from him. He was easily cured, at about the tenth part of the sum demanded by the quack, although, to be sure, he had not the inestimable advantage of the *golden treatment*.

In another instance, I had an opportunity of learning how they treat the victims of *imaginary disease*. A tradesman returning home one night somewhat inebriated was induced to accompany a prostitute to a house of accommodation. The next morning he felt alarmed at the possible results of his previous night's conduct, and this the more especially as he was married; and having, or fancying he had, considerable scalding on urinating, he determined on at once consulting some medical man. As he had heard of the person who figures in the above case, and believing him to be a duly-qualified practitioner, he lost no time in applying to him. This worthy at once assured him that he was diseased, and at the same time informed him if he would only take a five-guinea bottle of his invaluable medicines the progress of the malady would be immediately arrested and the patient cured without any one knowing he was ill. The dupe gladly, on this assurance, paid the money and received the so-called remedy. In about a week's time the medicine supplied was exhausted, and another visit was made to this temple of health. On this occasion a pretended examination of the patient's urine was made, and he was told his case was progressing favourably, *and the disease passing away in the urine*. Another five-guinea bottle was had and paid for. In a week's

time the supply was finished, and a third visit was made to the quack. The same farce was gone through, and the patient was told he must continue the "remedy." But the patient's pecuniary means were not such as to enable him to pay at this exorbitant rate for medicines; and so he told the quack, adding he feared he must give up the treatment. Hereupon the ruffian affected the greatest alarm at the idea of the patient discontinuing the remedy, saying he would be his *involuntary murderer*: as he had by his remedies driven the poison into the patient's system to be discharged in the urine, and therefore, if the patient did not continue the remedies until this was effected, he would be killed! Ridiculous as all this may appear, the patient was horribly alarmed at this representation of his future fate, and in the heat of the moment resolved at all sacrifices to obtain sufficient money whereby to continue the treatment, and he left the quack's house with that view. However, on reflection, he bethought him that he had done some work for my family, and he then determined on consulting me, and so, instead of going home to get more money, he came straight to my house. On my seeing him he was in a great state of alarm, and I obtained from him the above particulars. On examining him I found that in reality there was nothing the matter with him. I told him so and advised him to go back and demand the return of the money which had been so fraudulently obtained from him. In a very short time he returned in even, if possible, a greater state of alarm than he was when I first saw him. I now learnt that he had seen the impostor, demanded the return of his money, telling him that he had consulted me, and that I had assured him there was nothing, nor had been, anything the matter with him. To this the fellow coolly replied that it was all very well for me to say there was nothing the matter, as I could not now detect any outward symptom of disease in consequence of his medicines having dried it up and carried the poison into the blood, to be expelled, as he had before said, in the urine! He added that by-and-by the patient would find to his cost, the disease break out worse than ever; and he finally flatly refused to return the money. I again assured

the patient he had nothing the matter with him ; but I could not then convince him that the quack's statements were utterly false. Nor, indeed, could I do so on several subsequent occasions of my seeing him. What became of him I know not, but to the last the fears created by the quack remained unremoved.

These two cases may be taken as the type of the mode in which this class of men treat the patients who apply to them when they are either real or only imaginary sufferers under any form of venereal disease. I need hardly inform your medical readers that the balderdash as to the "*golden*" and other "*secret and valuable medicines*," which they boast themselves to possess is all *fudge* ; but it may be as well, for the information of your non-medical readers, to remark that they no more possess such remedies, than they possess any legal right to the names and medical titles they assume.

I have thus briefly referred to their systems of fraud and extortion in relation to those who, labouring under diseases resulting from impure sexual intercourse, are foolish enough to apply to them. But, considerable as the sums may be which they extort from this class of sufferers, they are as nothing in comparison with the enormous sums they filch from those whose misfortune it is to be either real or imaginary sufferers under spermatorrhœa, or impotency, or any other defect of the generative organs. However, this will form the subject of my next and subsequent letters.

LETTER VI.

SIR,—In concluding my last letter, wherein I exposed the manner in which the quacks treat patients who apply to them labouring under venereal diseases, I remarked that, large as the sums may be which they obtain from this class of patients, they are trifles in comparison with those they secure from the *real* or the *imaginary* sufferers under spermatorrhœa and other derangements affecting the sexual functions. Patients of this description are highly nervous ; they entertain the most ex-

aggregated notions as to the serious character of the real or imaginary maladies under which they labour ; indeed, they very generally fancy themselves to be on the verge of impotency, if not actually impotent. Hence they offer themselves ready victims to the system of intimidation and extortion which it is my object to expose.

The circumstances which very generally induce patients of this kind to apply to some one of the quacks are something like the following. A young man who has, whilst a lad, been unfortunately initiated into a certain habit, is attracted by the advertisement of one of these men, wherein the practice of self-abuse is openly referred to in connection with nocturnal emissions, spermatorrhœa, and other affections of the sexual organs. His curiosity, and it may be his fears also, being excited by these references, he buys the book. Now on reading it, he will find the most frightful descriptions given of the evils resulting from the practice of the habit of which he has been guilty. Amongst the first of these, he will see paraded the occurrence of involuntary nocturnal and diurnal emissions.

Now, involuntary nocturnal emissions are common, and, indeed, natural, to all young unmarried men not indulging in regular sexual intercourse. However, as this is a fact not generally known to the mass of patients, this representation makes a capital fulcrum for the quacks from which to work on the fears and the credulity of the patient, inasmuch as such a patient as I am now describing will, especially if he has abandoned the habit referred to, be sure to have had occasional involuntary nocturnal emissions. Under these circumstances, and, as I have just stated, ignorant of the fact that such losses are, with rare exceptions, perfectly natural, he is horribly frightened on finding them described as the first of a long catalogue of terrible maladies represented as following on self-abuse, on sexual excesses, and all kinds of involuntary seminal losses ; and as he now believes himself the victim of the first of the terrible maladies so ostentatiously paraded as the inevitable consequences of his past habits, he not only immediately jumps to the conclusion that he is already suffering under a serious affection of the generative system, but he

also believes that he will quickly and surely be overwhelmed by all the other terrible maladies which are always so graphically described in books of the class he has been reading. Again, he sees stated in them, that involuntary emissions have happened to patients riding on horseback, or on the mere occurrence of an erection, or on their voiding their *fæces* or expelling the urine. Henceforth, he fears to mount a horse; the occurrence of an erection is dreaded; he visits the water-closet in fear and trembling, and watches the urine as it is voided with keen and anxious eyes.

Now, under certain conditions, it may happen that slight mucus discharges will take place on all these occasions without being of the slightest importance in an injurious sense. But as the patient is not aware of this fact, he no sooner observes them, than he at once assumes them to be seminal, and then arrives at the very summit of mental misery. His imagination evermore runs upon nothing but his sexual organs, and he becomes a veritable sexual hypochondriac. or it may even be a monomaniac!

Whilst in this deplorable condition, he, in an evil hour, determines on consulting the apparent author or authors of the book he has been reading. On doing so, he wil in many instances be marched upstairs and down stairs, through gorgeously furnished drawing-, dining-, and billard-rooms, and finally ushered into the sanctum of the fortunate owner of all this splendour, he will be left to ruminate and wonder at the ostentatious display of wealth that has been submitted to him.

Now, all this may appear to the uninitiated as a very useless or even ridiculous proceeding; but, in truth, it is not so, and is not done without due calculation as to its probable effect on the mind of the patient, when the question of fees becomes the subject of discussion. For how can a patient, especially a nervous one, call in question the professional charges of so evidently successful a practitioner? How is it to be expected that the owner of such an establishment can give his valuable professional services on the same terms as Mr. Bolus round the corner, with his blue and red lamp, and modest, not to say humble, appointments? Nay, Mr. Scalpel (who resides

nearly opposite one of these establishments), the "GREAT OPERATOR," the "SUCCESSFUL CONSULTING SURGEON," with his pair of horses and chariot and well-appointed house, can bear no comparison with his neighbour's splendid horses, carriages, and houses. And well assured I am that, eminent and justly eminent as he is, if he attempted to obtain the enormous fees extracted by the men to whom I refer, he might, to use a vulgarism, "whistle for them." Indeed, the contrast which patients exhibit in this respect when attended by duly-qualified medical men and when consulting quacks is not a little singular. And here, although I am leaving the patient waiting in the quack's sanctum all this while, I cannot help stopping to relate a circumstance which happened to myself, and which fully confirms this statement. In the course of last summer I received a letter from an officer quartered at ———, inquiring if I should be at home on a certain day, and requesting me to write and say at what hour I could see him, as he intended coming up to London to consult me. I duly replied. On the morning of the day on which he should have called, I got a second letter, saying regimental duty would prevent his coming up as he had intended. He then stated that he thought he laboured under spermatorrhœa, and passed semen when he voided his urine. He, therefore, desired to know, if he sent me up several different samples of urine, if I would examine them and send him a written report of the result; and he further asked what would be my fee for doing so. I replied that I would do as he wished, and that my fee would be two guineas. To this I got no immediate reply, but after an interval of some weeks I received another letter in which he said it was his intention to come on a day he named, and he requested me to write and say if I should be at home. He ended his letter by remarking that he thought the charge of two guineas very high. This made three letters that I had written. Well, on the day named, he arrived, bringing with him several different bottles of urine, all of which he required me to examine. I did so, and did not detect in any one of them the slightest trace of semen; and, indeed, I found on questioning him that, beyond some slight local debility, there

was little or nothing the matter with him, and so I told him, when he, after again remarking he thought the fee high, most reluctantly paid his two guineas. Now, mark what had been this man's antecedent conduct when subjected to the frightening system pursued by quacks. In the course of conversation I learnt from him that he had formerly consulted one of the keepers of the anatomical museums to which I have referred, and that this worthy had so thoroughly frightened him, by telling him he laboured under spermatorrhœa, and by representing that disease as most terrible in its consequences and difficult to cure, as to induce him to agree to pay the enormous fee of *five hundred pounds* for a promised cure! and in pursuance of that agreement had actually at once written a check on his agents for TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY POUNDS (all he had at the time), and given a bill at a short date for the balance, £280! The next day he began to reflect on the egregious folly of which he had been guilty and resolved not to return to the quack, but quietly submit to the loss he had sustained. Not the least strange part of the story is, that no application was made to him to pay the acceptance he had given. All persons thus acting are not so fortunate, as I shall show in my next.

However, let us now return to the patient we have all this time left anxiously waiting the appearance of the pretended Medicus. Well, on that worthy's arrival, the patient will give all the painful details of his case, and whilst he is doing so, everything that can by looks and words be done to increase his alarm will be systematically practised. The history finished, questions will be asked him as to his avocations, position, and means, all apparently with the view of elucidating the points of his case, but in truth with the sole object of ascertaining to what extent it is likely he will bear bleeding in a pecuniary sense. This essential information obtained, the quack at once sets his moral rack to work. Everything will be said not only to confirm the patient's fears, but to increase them. He will be desired to pass his water, and the quack will then leave the room on the pretence of making an analysis and a microscopical examination of it. By-and-by he will return, wearing a grave expression of face, and say he regrets to have to announce to the patient that he

has found the urine to be loaded with semen; so that, in addition to the nocturnal emissions, he is suffering a daily and constant waste of semen on each occasion of urinating. Should the patient ever have observed any discharge escape at the water-closet, he will be assured that that is also semen. Sometimes they will offer to show the unfortunate dupe with the microscope the spermatozoa floating in the urine; and as they have always a supply of semen ready to mix with any victim's urine, this is easily done. The effect of this is tremendous on the patient, as he thinks this ocular demonstration of the truth of the assertions of the quack is "confirmation strong as proof of holy writ" of whatever he has said or may after say; and, in truth, these worthies do not fail to draw pretty freely on the further credulity of their dupe. Thus he will be told that, unless this dreadful waste be at once stopped, he will become impotent; he will be liable to spinal disease, softening of the brain, or become *insane*! Having by these means frightened the poor sufferer out of his wits, hopes of a cure are artfully held out to him; and in some instances a moderate sum named as the price of a cure, as occurred in the following instance:—A gentleman who recently consulted me on a supposed case of spermatorrhoea informed me that he had been induced to consult one of the quacks. At his interview with this party, after he had given the particulars of his case, he was informed that he could certainly be cured, and the cost would be twenty guineas. As this appeared a moderate sum, he at once paid the amount. The quack then left the room, and shortly returned with a package of medicine. He then, after giving certain directions as to the mode of taking the medicines, proceeded to inform the patient that it would be absolutely necessary for him to *remain in bed for the six weeks during which he would have to take the remedies, and that he must have a nurse to sit up with him at night, in order to wake him and give him the medicines regularly!* adding that if he (the patient) should by any chance catch cold during the time he was taking the remedies, fatal results might ensue. Upon hearing all this, the patient at once declared that it was impossible for him to submit to such a mode of treatment.

Hereupon the quack informed his victim that he had another remedy by which the necessity of the confinement was avoided ; but it was “ *very expensive*,” and a cure by it would cost “ *two hundred pounds*.” The patient now began to see what kind of hands he had fallen into, and he, therefore, at once refused to pay such a sum ; at the same time he requested that the twenty guineas he had paid, less a guinea, should be returned to him, as it would be impossible for him to undergo the first mode of treatment suggested. Upon this the quack who had been all civility up to this time, became violent and threatening in his manner, and declared that he would not return the money, as the medicines had been *especially prepared for the patient's case, and would do for no other*. After much discussion the patient, finding he could not get his money back, left the house minus twenty guineas and without his medicine.

In another instance, a gentleman wrote from the country to one of the quacks in London, stating his case. A few days after he was surprised by receiving a note to the effect that the quack was in the town and would be glad to see him. The patient accordingly called at the hotel where the fellow was staying. At this interview exactly the same plan was adopted as that just related, only the sum first obtained was fifty guineas, whilst in this instance the patient fell into the trap, and was cheated out of a further sum of one hundred pounds ! One day a gentleman called upon me evidently in a state of great mental excitement, and stated to me his case, one of impotency. Having done so, he exclaimed, “ I will give you a thousand pounds immediately if you say you can cure me.” My reply was, first, that although it was possible for him to be cured, yet no respectable professional man would promise to cure him, or accept such a fee even if he could. I added that if any one did make such a promise, and demand such an exorbitant fee, he (the patient) would be a downright fool to give it. I then asked him what put such an idea into his head. Upon this he informed me that he had been under one of the quacks, had paid some seventy or eighty guineas without obtaining any benefit, and that the quack had a few days before told him his case was one that

required for its cure "*preparation of gold*," a remedy so expensive that he could not prepare it unless the patient paid him a thousand pounds down. Whilst this patient was undecided about complying with this demand or not, he heard by accident of a case in which this man had obtained bills for a large amount from another patient, which bills were got back by following my advice: hence his visit to me. But I am trespassing, I fear, too much on your valuable space; I must, therefore, conclude with these cases. In my next I shall resume my illustrations of the evil practices of these men, by relating a case in which nearly a thousand pounds in money, besides bills for large amounts, were obtained from an imaginary sufferer.

LETTER VII.

SIR,—In my last I gave some instances in which the quacks had obtained large sums of money from credulous patients, and I also related other instances in which their attempts at extortion had proved unsuccessful. Amongst these was one in which an endeavour had been made to obtain no less a sum than *One thousand pounds* from a patient. In the following case it will be seen that the most astounding frauds were successfully practised on a too credulous youth. The history of this case affords as complete a "Revelation" of the nefarious system of terrorism and extortion pursued by the quacks as it is possible to give. In its first phase, it shows how they work on the fears and ignorance of simple youths, in regard to the occurrence of nocturnal emissions; in its second, it presents us with a life-picture of the manner in which they terrify and plunder the real or the imaginary victims of syphilis; whilst the whole forms as unique an illustration or "Revelation" of the course of proceedings adopted by the quacks in their treatment of the miserable dupes who seek their dangerous aid, as can well be imagined. This case, if it stood *per se*, instead of being, as it

is, only a truthful representation of the daily course of practice amongst the whole gang of quacks, should be warning sufficient to prevent in the future any real or imaginary sufferers from ever entertaining the remotest idea of seeking the advice of these "dangerous classes," much less of doing so. I would premise that the defendant in the lawsuit from which I take this history, is the same person who endeavoured to obtain one thousand pounds from the patient as related in my last letter.

The patient who figures as plaintiff in the following history, long after he had been duped and plundered in the manner hereafter shown, but whilst he was still in the toils of the defendant, and paying him an annual tribute of one hundred pounds, came up to London to consult me, not only in regard to his health, but also in respect to the unfortunate position in which he was placed by the conduct of the defendant. On hearing from the patient the particulars I shall directly relate, I advised him not only to discontinue the annual payments he was making to the defendant, but also to adopt immediate steps to obtain restitution of the enormous sums of money and the bills which had been so nefariously obtained from him. The patient having expressed his determination to be guided by me in the matter, I at once, as a preliminary step in the adoption of the proceedings I contemplated, wrote the following opinion on the case and its attendant circumstances :—

"Having examined ———, Esq., I beg to state that, in my opinion, when he first applied to a person of the name of ——— in the year 1851, he was not labouring under any disease requiring medical treatment, although suffering from an inconvenience to which young unmarried men are more or less liable, and which derangement often occasions nervous persons groundless alarm as to their physical powers.

"With regard to the condition of Mr. ——— when he applied to the same person, under the impression that he was labouring under syphilis; even if he were so, no treatment which he might have required could by possibility justify the demand of such a sum as £500; and there is no doubt in my mind that the said ———, seeing the nervous con-

dition of the patient's mind from first to last, took advantage of it, and has practised the grossest frauds on him."

I then desired the patient to accompany me to the residence of the late Sir B. Brodie. and on our arrival there, although it was late in the evening, and after Sir Benjamin's hours of seeing patients, on my telling him the nature of the case, he at once kindly consented to see the patient. With what result the following certificate, which he then and there gave, will show :—

"Having heard Mr. ———'s account of his case, and carefully inquired into all the circumstances of it, I entirely agree in the opinion expressed by Mr. Courtenay.

"B. C. BRODIE."

Furnished with my opinion, and this confirmation of it by Sir B. Brodie, the next morning the patient accompanied me to my solicitor's, and gave directions that the necessary legal proceedings should be adopted to recover from the defendats the moneys and the bills he had obtained from the patient. I would mention that, on my leaving Sir Benjamin the previous night, he had begged of me in the most earnest manner to exert myself to the utmost on behalf of the patient, and most kindly assured me that he would aid me by every means in his power. I would also state that, at a subsequent period, Mr. Thomas Wakley saw the patient with me, and gave an opinion in accord with the above. This opinion I cannot find, but it is immaterial, as I shall by-and-by give the affidavits which both Sir Benjamin and Mr. Wakley subsequently made, and which embodied their opinions. This gentleman also evinced the greatest kindness on behalf of the patient. With these explanatory remarks, I shall now give the details as related in the bill of Chancery, filed by the patient against the defendant.

The bill states that the plaintiff, at the age of nineteen, imagined that he was suffering from some serious organic disease, and that his health was greatly and injuriously affected; and, in consequence of such imagination, and by reason of his youth and inexperience, and being of an exceedingly nervous temperament, he became alarmed and disturbed in his mind about his physical condition. Whilst in this

condition his attention was attracted by the advertisement in one of the public newspapers of a work purporting to be written by ———, “On the Philosophy of Marriage, &c.” In consequence of such advertisement the plaintiff purchased and perused the said work, the essential object of which, in the language of the work, is to point out the fearful consequences resulting from the irregularities and excesses of youth, which have produced more misery in youth, degradation in manhood, and premature decay in all stages of life, than perhaps any other class of disease known to modern pathologists. From the perusal of this book the plaintiff became still more alarmed about himself, and ultimately came up to London and consulted the defendant. The defendant then represented to the plaintiff that he was labouring under a serious disease, resulting from habits practised by the plaintiff, and that it had produced impotency, and that the most distressing consequences would ensue from the disease if he was not at once properly treated and cured ; and he made such fearful representations of the consequences of the (supposed) disease, that he greatly increased the plaintiff’s alarm, distress of mind, and terrified him. The defendant then stated that he could cure the plaintiff, and that there were two methods of cure, the one of which was much more safe, speedy, and effective than the other, but very expensive. The plaintiff inquired what would be the expense of the last-mentioned treatment, and in reply the defendant said it would cost *three hundred pounds*. The plaintiff objected to pay so large a sum, but after a long conversation as to the pecuniary ability of the plaintiff, he (the plaintiff) was so much worked upon and distressed by the dreadful representations made by the defendant of the (supposed) disease, and became so excited, nervous, and terrified, that he at length agreed to the defendant’s terms. The defendant then at once sat down and drew up a paper, in which the plaintiff was made to acknowledge that he had committed irregularities, and that he was then impotent, and agreed, in consideration of the defendant’s undertaking the treatment of his case, and to cure him, to pay the defendant the sum of three hundred pounds within a period of three years, and the de-

defendant required the plaintiff to sign the said paper, and the plaintiff, under the influence of the distress and terror which the defendant's representations had created, signed the said paper; and he further paid the defendant then and there £15 on account. The defendant then gave the plaintiff some medicines, and continued to do so from this period, from time to time, for twelve months, but the plaintiff derived no benefit therefrom. The plaintiff was subsequently in London, and apprehensive that he was suffering from a syphilitic complaint, and being still under the belief that the defendant was a duly-qualified physician, he called upon him, and again consulted him. The defendant examined him, and assured him he was labouring under syphilis of an aggravated character, and that he was in a frightful state of disease, and ultimately he stated to the plaintiff that his (defendant's) brother was a most experienced medical man in the treatment of such cases, and was in the house, and he wished that he (the brother) should see the plaintiff. This request increased the patient's anxiety which the defendant's statement of the nature of the plaintiff's (supposed) disease had raised, and the plaintiff consented to see the brother, and he was accordingly introduced to and left with the plaintiff. The brother then examined the plaintiff, and made to him the same exaggerated representations as to his (supposed) illness which the defendant had previously made; and the person represented as the brother then proceeded to speak of a cure by mercury and salivation, and then enlarged upon the ill consequence to the plaintiff, and of the exposure of him to his family, which must result from the adoption of that treatment; and he then stated the dangerous results from the use of mercury, and the treatment commonly adopted, whilst all chance of exposure would be avoided by the adoption of another mode which he proposed. The defendant then returned, and joined the plaintiff and the brother. The plaintiff was agitated and distressed by these statements. The defendant then said he would undertake the cure of the plaintiff by the superior and his said peculiar mode for the sum of FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS, and under the circumstances aforesaid; and being influenced by the fact

that the defendant held the securities before mentioned, and might expose the plaintiff, the plaintiff was induced by the defendant to sign an acceptance for five hundred pounds, payable at six months, the defendant having taken out of his drawer the necessary stamp for five hundred pounds,* and drawn the bill. At this interview the plaintiff paid the defendant £140 on account, and in part payment of the sum of £300, which he had previously agreed to pay. On this occasion the plaintiff required the defendant to give him credit in accordance with his (defendant's) promise for the £15 he had paid at his first visit; but this the defendant refused to do, and the plaintiff soon afterwards remitted the balance, £160, to the defendant. A few days before the said bill for £500 became due, the defendant wrote to the plaintiff to say that it would be presented through his (defendant's) bankers for payment. The plaintiff was unable to meet the bill, and wrote to the defendant, asking for a renewal, to which the defendant agreed; and the said bill was afterwards from time to time renewed, and the plaintiff more than once remitted the defendant, on his demand, the sum of £50 for such renewals, and in this manner he has paid the said defendant £150. Subsequently to this, from a fear that the defendant would insist on the payment of the £500, the plaintiff was induced to give a further bill for £250 at three years' date.

Ultimately the plaintiff found that he could not pay the said renewed bill for £500. He was, as hereinbefore appears, completely in the defendant's power, and he very greatly dreaded exposure if the defendant should not be paid; and thereupon, and under the circumstances aforesaid, and in the month of January, 1856, the plaintiff was induced by the defendant to agree by letter with the defendant, to pay him the sum of £1,250 by instalments, such instalments for the first five years to be half-yearly instalments of £50 (making altogether £100 per annum), and for the last five years to be half-yearly instalments of £75 (making together

* The quacks all thus keep stamps for different amounts ready, to get their dupes to sign before they have time to recover from the terrifying system herein disclosed.

£150 per annum); and the defendant agreed, in consideration thereof, to release the plaintiff from all liability in respect to the said bills for £500 and £250. These instalments of £50 each were payable in July and January in every year, and they have been duly paid up to the present time. The sums so paid as last aforesaid amount to £300 in the whole.

In the month of September, 1850, and being so, as aforesaid, in the power of the defendant and under his influence, the plaintiff still believing that the defendant was a duly-qualified physician, again by letter consulted the defendant as to the state of his health; and, in consequence of the defendant's representation then made, the plaintiff was induced again to take some of the defendant's medicines, and, as his remuneration, the defendant insisted on the plaintiff's paying him the sum of £50 down and £200 more within two years from the month of September, 1858; and, in consequence of the plaintiff's being so, as aforesaid, under the power and influence of the defendant, the plaintiff did, on the 1st day of October, 1858, remit him the sum of £50 in pursuance of his said demand, and also agreed by letter to pay him the further sum of £200 at the expiration of two years.

In fact and truth, the plaintiff, when he so consulted the defendant as last aforesaid, was not really ill; and, at all events, the defendant's aforesaid demand of £50 down and £200 more in two years was an exorbitant and fraudulent demand, and the defendant induced the plaintiff to yield to it by the abuse of the influence which he had obtained over the plaintiff as aforesaid, and when the plaintiff assented thereto he was not a free agent.

Afterwards, and in the month of December, 1858, the plaintiff did contract a complaint, and, being still under the belief that the defendant was a duly qualified physician, he again consulted the defendant on the subject, and had prescriptions and medicines from him. The said prescriptions and medicines were, however, altogether useless, and, in consequence thereof, the plaintiff was obliged to consult, and did consult, a medical man in his own neighbourhood.

The plaintiff has lately become convinced, and the facts

are, that he has been imposed upon by the defendant in the several matters aforesaid.

The plaintiff has since then consulted two eminent surgeons practising in London, and he has been advised by them ; and the fact is, that at the time when plaintiff so applied to the defendant in the year 1851 as aforesaid, he was not labouring under any disease requiring medical treatment, although suffering from an inconvenience to which young unmarried men are more or less liable ; and that, with reference to the plaintiff's application to the defendant, in the year 1854 as aforesaid, even supposing that the plaintiff was then labouring under syphilis, no treatment which he could have required would, by any possibility, have justified the demand of such a sum as £500 in payment.

In fact and truth, the defendant has, throughout his aforesaid intercourse with the plaintiff, greatly imposed upon the plaintiff ; and the aforesaid paper so signed and given to the defendant by the plaintiff in 1851 as aforesaid, and the said sum of £15, and the said sums of £140 and £160, making together the said sum of £300, and all the said bills or notes and the said sum of £150 or thereabouts, and the said several instalments amounting to £300, the said sum of £50, and the said letter, agreeing to pay the said sum of £200 as aforesaid, were obtained from the plaintiff by the defendant by undue practices and fraud, and no consideration whatever was given to the plaintiff by the defendant for the said papers, moneys, bills, notes, and agreements, or any of them, nor has the plaintiff at any time become in any manner indebted to the defendant in any sum of money whatever, except some such as the defendant may be entitled to receive, as the value of medicines supplied by him to the plaintiff.

I find this letter has already greatly exceeded the limits you can allot me in your valuable Journal, I must therefore postpone to my next the publication of Sir Benjamin Brodie's affidavit, with the result of the legal proceedings, and such observations as the nature of this extraordinary instance of credulity on one side and fraud on the other suggests.

LETTER VIII

SIR,—I now resume my narrative of the extraordinary case, the history of which I commenced in my last letter.

The following is the affidavit the late Sir B. Brodie made in the suit, and to which I have already referred :—

“I, Sir Benjamin Collins Brodie, of No. 14 Savile-Row, in the county of Middlesex, Baronet, a Member of the College of Surgeons, Doctor of Civil Law, and a Fellow of the Royal Society, make oath, and say as follows :—

“I say that I have carefully perused the copy of the several letters written by the plaintiff to the defendant, now produced and shown to me at the time of swearing this my affidavit, and marked with the letter ‘A’; and that I did, on the 29th day of January, 1859, personally examine the plaintiff concerning his health, and inquired of him as to the nature of his symptoms as well, when he first applied to the above-named defendant for advice concerning the plaintiff’s then state of health as afterwards; and from the result of such perusal and examination I can come to no other than the conclusions hereinafter stated.

“I am of opinion that when he first consulted the defendant the plaintiff was not labouring under any disease requiring medical treatment, although he was troubled during the night with occasional seminal emissions—an inconvenience to which young unmarried men are more or less liable, but not indicative of any actual disease.

“And, further, that the plaintiff was improperly and unnecessarily encouraged by the defendant in the apprehension that he was labouring under a disease which would lead to some very serious results if not treated with medical skill; that he, in the meantime, promised the plaintiff relief and a cure if he would go through a course of medicine with which the defendant would supply him for that purpose.

“And, also, that the plaintiff was thus improperly and unnecessarily confirmed by the defendant in the unfounded apprehensions which he entertained, and that he was induced

by the defendant to give him at various times large sums of money, and further securities for still larger sums to be paid thereafter.

"And, further, that even supposing that the plaintiff was labouring under maladies which required medical aid, the sums of money and securities that were extorted from the plaintiff by the defendant were enormous as compared with those which would have been considered, and would, in fact, have been, a liberal compensation to a physician or surgeon in the largest practice under the same circumstances.

"And I, lastly, say that I have carefully perused the certificate now produced and shown to me marked with the letter 'B,' and I entirely agree in the opinions therein expressed."

The document, B, referred to, is the written opinion I gave on first seeing the patient, and which, with Sir B. Brodie's opinion confirming it, formed the basis of the legal proceedings subsequently adopted. It is unnecessary to enter on a history of the course of the suit in Chancery, which continued for some months. At first, the defendant loudly proclaimed his determination to defend the suit to the last; but ultimately, the suit was compromised on the following terms—viz., the defendant returned £400 of the money he had received, and gave up all bills, letters, and securities he held, and with them, of course, all claims on the plaintiff for the different amounts they represented. Thus, by following the advice I gave when I first saw him, he obtained restitution of £400 in money, and was freed from liabilities amounting in the whole to £1,150!

This compromise was made much against my wishes, as I felt assured that, had the suit been urged to the utmost, the defendant would voluntarily, or been compelled to, have given back, if not all, nearly every farthing of the money he had extorted from the plaintiff, besides having to pay the costs of the suit; but unfortunately there are few victims who have, in contending with this class of men, the moral courage displayed by Captain Clarke in his prosecution of Dr. Henery.

Now, I feel it impossible to leave this case without making

some comments upon it. It is pregnant with matter for grave reflection, and this not only in reference to patients themselves, but also in regard to the reprehensible conduct of parents who so recklessly admit into their family circle newspapers which insert the obscene advertisements of the quacks. As I have said before, these advertisements are traps for their sons, and an offence to the modesty of their daughters. Were it within the compass of my power, I would place the narrative of this case in the hands of every father, and then ask him how he can reconcile the admission of these greedy newspapers into his home with the care and duty he owes to his children. Well assured am I that many cases of unaccountable suicide in youths and young men, which cause so much surprise and misery in families, are due to these unfortunates having become the dupes of quacks. And here, although I am digressing from my immediate subject, I cannot refrain from referring to a melancholy instance of the misery entailed on weak-minded young men by the books and proceedings of these miscreants. I have recently had an interview with the master of the young man, residing at Gravesend, who destroyed himself, and an account of whose death was recently published in your Journal;* and this gentleman informed me that the police-officer who had been employed in getting evidence in that case told him of an instance in which a young man, under the fear inspired by some one of these men and his book, had attempted to hang himself, but, being discovered, he was cut down and saved. Subsequently, however, he became insane, and he is now an inmate of a lunatic asylum.

But to resume. The gentleman who was the plaintiff in this case told me that from the time of his first consulting the defendant, up to the period of my seeing him, he had been in a constant state of anxiety and alarm, and that no language could describe the misery he had for years endured. As to the defendant, from first to last his conduct, in my opinion, was most heartless and dastardly. His inducing a boy of nineteen to promise to pay such a sum as £300 was highly

* "Medical Circular," January 25th, 1863.

improper ; but to my mind, bad as this was, his requiring and obtaining from him a written confession of his past ill-practices was of a worse character still, perfectly unjustifiable, and a gross abuse of the confidence which the plaintiff had reposed in the defendant. See how the possession of such a confession, duly signed by the plaintiff and held *in terrorem* over him by the defendant, placed him, bound hand and foot as it were, in the power of the defendant, should he hereafter have attempted to dispute the payment of the £300 he had agreed to pay. Again, mark the manner in which the promise to pay £500 was obtained by the plaintiff. Not content with his own ill-practices on the ignorance and fear of the plaintiff, he introduces in a false character his brother, as he asserts, to work still more on the credulity and alarm of the patient ; and after the unfortunate dupe has been thoroughly frightened and humbugged by this man, the defendant joins them, and the precious pair between them extort from him a promise to pay the enormous amount of £500 for the cure of a disease under which it is doubtful if he ever suffered ! Now who do you, Sir, suppose there is reason to believe was the asserted experienced medical man who was thus introduced to the patient ? Why, Sir, if it were the brother of the defendant, it would be none other than J. La'Mert, *alias* J. Curtis, of Albemarle street, and of "Manhood" renown—a man illegally practising under an assumed name, and without a shred of legal right to the medical titles he assumes.

In respect to the further amounts which the poor dupe agreed to pay for an extension of the period of payment for the sums for which he had made himself liable, I am bound, in fairness to the defendant, to state that these proposals appeared in some instances to have emanated from the plaintiff himself. How far the defendant was justified in availing himself of this credulity and weakness of the patient is another question. With these imperfect remarks, I leave the history of this case to the careful study of both fathers and sons.

In my next I shall relate the history of another case, in which proceedings in Chancery were instituted against the

notorious firm of Perry and Co., for the recovery of £600 in money, and bills for £2,000, obtained by them from a credulous young man.

LETTER IX.

SIR,—According to my promise of last week, I proceed to give your readers the history of another case of gross imposition derived from the unquestionable records of the Court of Chancery in the suit of — *versus* Perry and Co. I have now before me an official copy, duly stamped and certified, of the bill in Chancery filed by the complainant against the defendants, and from it I find that Mr. — was an agriculturist, living at —, near —, Yorkshire, and was induced, from seeing the advertisement of the Messrs. Perry and Co. in the newspapers, to purchase their medicines, and subsequently to become their patient. At different interviews with the firm, prompt and permanent relief was promised him, and he was induced to pay them £600 (!) in cash in expectation of the promised cure. At a later period bills of exchange for £2,000 (!!) more were obtained from him under the same pretences. During this period Mr. — suffered much in health and circumstances, and was unable to meet the bills so promptly as was desired by his persecutors. Legal proceedings were then threatened in order to extort the money, when, becoming embarrassed and frightened, the patient sought the assistance of a respectable solicitor, who advised him not only to resist payment, but to sue for the recovery of the money he had already paid. The accuracy of these statements *cannot be questioned*. They were attested on oath before the High Court of Chancery, and the miserable and disappointed defendants were compelled to disgorge every farthing of the ill-gotten fees and securities obtained from the complainant.

With these remarks, I will now submit to your readers such abridged extracts from the bill as will be necessary to put them in possession of the facts of this marvellous case.

The bill bears date the 20th of November, 1850. It recites that—

“‘Your orator is between twenty-four and twenty-five years of age, and for many years in his youth was affected with a disease which rendered the wearing of a truss necessary, and was subject to pains in the groin,’ &c. At eighteen or nineteen was troubled with a continual discharge of the seminal fluid (spermatorrhœa), but from motives of delicacy abstained from seeking advice, but read many books which professed to treat on that and similar diseases, and for many years took medicines recommended’ therein, ‘or in advertisements which fell in his way, but without benefit.’ . . . ‘About two years ago your orator perused, in a newspaper, an advertisement which recommended certain medicines as remedies, prepared by Messrs. Perry and Co., of No. 19 Berners street. And your orator purchased several bottles of (said) medicines and boxes of pills, and for some time continued to take them.’ . . . ‘That the said firm (and defendants herein) consists of persons under the name of Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry and Robert Perry.’ . . . ‘In 1848 your orator called on Perry and Co. aforesaid, and explained to “one of the assistants” his case, and what he had already taken, and bought a (*fresh*) £5 case of the said medicines.’ . . . ‘In November, 1848, your orator saw an advertisement stating that the Messrs. Perry and Co. would be present at York, and advice would be given gratis to any person who should purchase medicines to the value of £5; and in consequence (he) attended and saw the younger defendant, Robert Perry, who told your orator that (his) case was not *hopeless* (and), that he could cure your orator, but it would cost a *great deal of money*—£100’ (!) ‘Your orator did not possess so much (with him) in cash,’ whereupon ‘the said defendant, Robert Perry, produced a bill of exchange in blank, and filled up the same for the sum of £100 (at six months), and your orator did accordingly accept the same bill.’ . . . ‘The said Robert Perry then said it would be necessary that your orator should take medicine for six months, which he would furnish.’ . . . ‘At the expiration of the six months your orator came to London, and *paid the said bill*, and the said

defendant then told your orator that he could completely cure your orator, but it would require six or seven months longer, and that he must be confined in his bedroom and not stir out of doors;’ . . . ‘that he was about to give your orator mercury, to salivation, and then described the *horrible effects* of mercury, and told your orator he must be *prepared to endure it all*, and (then) went to a closet in the room and produced a *most horrible bust* exhibiting the head of one in a state of salivation and—’ (here follows a most disgusting description). . . . ‘Your orator fully believed the representations made to him, and thereupon declared nothing should induce him to go through such a course of cure, and further, “his business would not permit” it. Robert Perry then said that he could cure the disease without mercury, and that Perry and Co. were the *only* people in London who could do so, but *it would cost a great deal more money—£500*’ (!!!) (This sum, after much wrangling, was agreed to be paid in the form of a bill, at six months;) ‘and your orator then accepted a bill, payable six months after date, for £500,’ (!!!) payable at Perry and Co.’s, and promising that if he could pay the amount of the said bill before the same became due he would do so.’ . . . (Thereupon the medicine was changed for another six months.)

“When the bill ‘for £500 became due, your orator came to London, and then saw (Mr.) Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry, the father, and paid (him) the £500.’ ‘Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry,’ then ‘examined your orator’s person, and (said) he was going on well, and *must not mind expense*,’ as it ‘*would cost more money to effect a cure*.’ ‘Your orator thereupon told (Mr.) Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry, that Robert Perry had undertaken to *cure your orator completely for £500*; (!!!) whereupon (Mr.) Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry, remarked that *Robert Perry was but a young man, and did not understand the nature of the case as well as he did*.’ . . . ‘That it would require a *still longer time*, AND MORE MONEY, to effect a COMPLETE CURE, and that your orator *must not mind expense* on a matter so important to himself.’ (Hereupon the poor patient remonstrated on the rascality of the breach of contract, when) ‘Louis Perry said *it was of no consequence*

what his son, Robert Perry, had undertaken or promised, as it would require longer time and still MORE MONEY; (!!!) that (they) the defendants were at great expense for advertisements, and in other ways; that to complete the cure he must have MORE MONEY. Here the patient pleads inability at present, but (said) at the death of his mother he might have a thousand pounds or two; whereupon (Mr.) Lewis, *alias* Louis Perry, told your orator that *some of his patients had paid him as much as £7,000, (!!!) and produced his books from which it appeared as if such statements WERE TRUE.* 'That your orator, if the treatment were not continued would fall into *a relapse, and never be cured; and that in case a relapse occurred, he would not undertake to cure your orator for £10,000; (!!!) that no person in London besides themselves, could cure your orator without mercury, and that he would undertake to cure your orator for (a further) £2,000.*' (!!!) (Here ensued another wrangle, but) 'the said defendant persisted,' and 'your orator then (asked) *if he would allow twenty years at £100 per year, but the said defendant refused such terms.*' . . . 'Although he agreed to give *two years* to pay the said sum of £2,000, and then drew two bills, each for £1,000, payable respectively at twelve months and two years after date, and at the same time told your orator that *if he were unable to pay the said last-mentioned bill when due, he would find him (the said defendant) a GENTLEMAN, (!!!) and that he would give (further) time for payment, and that he would not negotiate the said bills.* 'Your orator, *trusting to these representations,* and being alarmed at 'what was stated, about to relapse' (&c. &c.), 'and being of nervous temperament, and much affected in health, did accept the said two bills of exchange.' (Hereupon fresh batches of medicines were supplied.)

"At length 'the first bill becomes due, for £1,000, on November 8th, and on *Sunday, the 10th of November,* (Mr.) Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry, went down to your orator's residence, and informed your orator that *he had come down to Yorkshire to give (him) notice of dishonour, and that your orator must pay the same.*' (The answer was inability, &c.) The said defendant (then) said that if *not paid* it would

expose your orator's character in the country, and that he would put the bill into the hands of a third party, who would come down "slap bang" upon your orator for the money.' 'Your orator was *alarmed* by (this) *intimidation and threat*, and reminded the said defendant (that he had) told your orator that your orator *would find him to be a GENTLEMAN, &c., &c.*, and 'asked time for payment,' 'that he would do what he could,' &c., &c. (Hereupon) 'the defendant (Mr.) Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry, said he would *stay down in that neighbourhood a day or two*; but your orator objected, being fearful that the *reason* would become known, and defendant at length returned to London, having first *extracted a promise from your orator that he would come to London on the following Saturday, and bring to him as much money as he could (then) procure.*'

"(Failing with the funds, Mr. — is at length driven, in self-defence) 'to consult Mr. — (solicitor), of —, Yorkshire, who advised (him) to go to London and see Mr. Bower (solicitor), of Tokenhouse yard' (which he did), 'when your orator was informed that *he had been greatly imposed on, and that he ought not to pay the said bills of exchange.*' . . . 'Your orator, through delicacy, had previously refrained from stating any of the aforesaid dealings and transactions to any professional or other person.' . . . 'And the said defendants *threaten and intend to prosecute* your orator at law, to recover the amount of the first of the said bills of exchange, and hereafter when the second shall become due.' 'And the said defendant Lewis, otherwise Louis Perry, also *threatens and intends to endorse over the same,*' &c., &c. . . . 'And your orator further shows that the said defendants have in their possession divers books, papers, memorandums, accounts, letters, documents, and writings (relating thereto as evidence), but refuse to produce the same.'

"And praying that 'the said defendants may be decreed to deliver up the said two bills of exchange, *your orator offers hereby to pay to the said defendants what—if anything—the judgment of the Honourable Court shall deem properly payable to them for medicines and medical advice under the circumstances of the case.*' . . . 'And that the said defendants be *restrained by injunction* from prosecuting actions (against)

your orator in negotiating, &c., the said bill's,' &c. &c. 'And that your orator may have such further relief,' &c. . . . 'And that (the proper) *writs of injunction and subpoena out of and under the seal of the Honourable Court* (of Chancery), directed to (Mr.) *Lewis*, otherwise *Louis Perry* and *Robert Perry*, and their confederates, commanding them,' &c., &c."

The results I have already given the reader. The facts developed are *astounding! damning!!* In the above extracts I have followed the *original document verbatim*, merely abridging and omitting the unimportant portions. The words within the inverted commas are those contained in the bill.

Such are the almost incredible facts disclosed by the bill of the complainant in this case. This instance of imposition and those exposed in my two last letters, related in a life-drama or romance, would be sneered at for their apparently gross improbability. Nevertheless, they are truthful life-pictures of occurrences even now in all probability daily taking place in the vile haunts of quackery; for the quacks continue just as audacious, shameless, and rapacious as they were at the periods referred to in these cases, whilst it is to be feared there is just as much gullibility and inexperience amongst this class of patients at the present time as that disclosed in these narratives of transactions in years past. With these patent cases of gross imposition I might almost conclude my task. But, Sir, as I am desirous that nothing may be left undone or unsaid that can possibly be said or done to afford your readers and the general public a perfect knowledge as to the proceedings and whereabouts of the advertising quacks, I shall, I fear, have to trespass on your columns to the extent of two or three more letters; for the evil practices of these men have been for years so shamelessly pursued, and have, at the present time, attained such a height, whilst they are so fraught with misery, insanity, and even death to their victims, that a stern, unflinching, and uncompromising exposure of them is imperatively called for in the interest of public morality, happiness, and health; and it is to the continuance of your generous aid, who have already so fearlessly placed your pages at my disposal, that I look for the achievement of these objects. There must be no paltering with the

question. Reptiles cannot be destroyed by sprinkling them with rose-water. Mere initial denunciations will not suffice. Mysterious hesitating references to the so-called Dr. This or That, residing near such a street or square, can no longer be permitted. All ambiguity must be fearlessly cast aside. Publicity, widespread and unequivocal, must not only be given to the system of terrorism and extortion pursued by these men, but they themselves, under their real or assumed names, must be held up to public execration; so that henceforth the victims of any one of the maladies, the pretended cure of which forms the foundation of the frauds practised by them, may at a glance see, not '*who to consult*,' but *who NOT to consult*."

LETTER X.

SIR,—In this letter I propose, as far as my limits will allow, to refer individually and in alphabetical order to the different advertising firms and advertising physicians or surgeons resident in London, whose advertisements are to be constantly seen in the newspapers, but whose names and qualifications are not to be found recorded in the 'Medical Directories,' nor in the list of members published by the College of Physicians in London and the Royal College of Surgeons of England, nor in the 'Register' of duly-qualified members of the Profession, published by the authority of the General Council of Medical Education and Registration of the United Kingdom.

But that no injustice may be done to these eminent individuals, I shall carefully record the titles they claim for themselves, leaving it to your readers in most instances to take them at the worth they may think is merited. If, in this enumeration, it should chance that I refer to any duly and legally-qualified members of the Profession who are practising and advertising themselves under their real or assumed names, but names which do not appear in the authorities I have mentioned, the injustice, if any, which I may appear to inflict on them will rest with themselves for thus hiding their

“light under a bushel,” by not registering or by practising under feigned names.

At the same time, should such parties think fit to correct me and explain how it is their names remain unrecorded, I shall be most happy to give their statements the same wide publicity I give to these letters; and I am sure, Sir, you will be equally ready to give a place to such statements and explanations in the columns of your Journal; for your object, in common with my own, is justice to all parties. And whilst I trust neither of us will shrink from the responsibility we have assumed of exposing the pretensions of charlatans, on the other hand, we would not willingly inflict injury or pain on any duly and legally-qualified member of the Profession honourably pursuing his career.

Well, Sir, first in alphabetical order stands the firm of

MESSRS. BRIGHT AND CO.,
SURGEONS,

29 George Street, Hanover Square, W.

The following are samples of the advertisements which appear in reference to the practice of these parties:—

Now ready, 180 pages, price 1s., post free 14 stamps, sealed 20,
THE GUIDE to MARRIAGE: Its DUTIES and IMPEDIMENTS.
Being a Physiological Exposition of the Functions and Qualifications necessary for Happy Marriages.

VIGOUR GUARANTEED in FOURTEEN DAYS, without the possibility of Failure, by the use of Dr. BRIGHT'S REMEDY, prepared in the form of a Lozenge, to insure secrecy. Invaluable in all cases of Physical Debility, &c.

DR. BRIGHT'S THREE DAYS' CURE. — The **BUCHU GLOBULES**, containing the Essence of Buchu, free from taste, being encased in sugar, at once cure all diseases arising from infection, stricture, &c., subduing all inflammatory action.

This firm have also an anatomical museum attached to their establishment.

Next in order stands the name of

DR. CURTIS, alias J. LA'MERT,
15 Albemarle Street, Piccadilly.

Here is this worthy's advertisement:—

New Edition, free from the Author, 12 stamps; sealed ends, 20,
MANHOOD: A Medical Essay on the Cause and Cure of Premature Decline in Man. The Treatment of Nervous and Physical Debility, Loss of Memory and Muscular Power, Pains in the Back, and those Diseases which tend to embitter and shorten life. By Dr. CURTIS.

I now come to

DR. WALTER DE ROOS, M.D.,

OF THE ECOLE DE MEDECINE, PARIS (according to the title-page of his book); GRADUATE IN MEDICINE, SURGERY, AND MIDWIFERY; LICENTIATE OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES; FORMERLY PHYSICIAN TO THE WESTERN INSTITUTION, ETC.,

25 Bedford place, Bloomsbury square.

I cannot lay my hand at this moment on a specimen of this person's style of advertising, but this description of him and his claimed qualifications are taken from the title-page of one of his books, which belonged to the unfortunate man who committed suicide near Gravesend. This poor creature, at the time of his melancholy death, had no less than three different works, all apparently the production of this Dr. Walter De Roos. They are filled with the most fearful and exaggerated statements in regard to the nature and consequences of spermatorrhœa. These books, with some letters and other documents, were handed to me by this unhappy creature's master, who called on me with two other gentlemen. One of them also stated to me that the poor man had only the night before his terrible death read to his poor wife the following passages from one of Dr. De Roos's books called the "Medical Adviser":—

"I charge you both as you will answer for it hereafter, when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, that if either of you know any impediment why ye may not be joined together in matrimony, ye do now confess it. For be ye well assured, that so many as are coupled together otherwise than God's word doth allow, are not joined together by God; neither is their matrimony lawful." Now, those who pass through this ceremony, while labouring under the slightest disqualification or impediment, and remain silent to the above solemn charge, are of course concealing the hindrances to a just and honourable union, are accordingly guilty of gross deception, and sowing the seeds of discontent, which will, in all probability, soon germinate and embitter the remainder of their lives; for what mockery more deep than that desolation of spirit which an affectionate woman must feel, on finding that she clasps within her circling embrace the mere wreck of sensualism, or the debilitated victim of self-pollution, one who, from having unduly or precociously exercised his imagination and bodily

powers, is now deprived of that capability for which his generative organs were destined?"

In addition to these terrible books, he had another, entitled "A Warning Voice," and purporting to be written by Messrs. Smith, of 8 Burton crescent, Tavistock square. This is of the same class with other quack productions—full of fearful pictures of the consequences of generative diseases, and hideously suggestive of suicide to unhappy sufferers. At page 27, it appears to me that these men (if there be more than one) had deliberately resolved on saying everything they possibly could to drive some unfortunate wretch to madness or suicide; they could not have said more to the purpose than they have therein. It positively makes one's heart ache to read such odious productions, and then think of the possible consequences of their perusal to poor weak-minded patients of this class.* Surely the men who thus recklessly, for their self-profit, tamper with the happiness, the sanity, and even the lives of their fellow-creatures, are equally, if not more, as worthy of the hangman's last offices as the man who, under sudden impulse of passion, takes the life of his adversary.

But to resume from this digression. I now have to introduce, as next in order, the following :—

Just out, 204 pages, with plates, post free 14 stamps, sealed 24,

THE NEW ARISTOTLE; or, Physiological View of Marriage: Its Relations, Essays on the Reproductive Organs and Nervous System. By Dr. D'LALOR, 6 Mecklenburgh Street, London, W.C.

Now I introduce

DR. HAMMOND,

No. 11 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square.

The following is a specimen of this individual's advertisements :—

MEDICAL AID (by letter or personally) by

DR. HAMMOND (of the Lock Hospital, Member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons), on MANLY VIGOUR and all the attributes of PERFECT MANHOOD, how they can be secured. THE MARRIED LIFE RENDERED HAPPY, and the cause of Discord removed. THOSE WHO DESIRE TO MARRY restored to HEALTH, BEAUTY, GRACE, and ELEGANCE. Also on "The ARREST, CURE, and ISOLATION of Nervous, Physical, and Sexual Debility, Nocturnal and Diurnal Losses, Painful Dreams, Wastings of the Organs of Generation, Impotence, Sterility, and all DISEASES of ERROR. The Author will advise INVALIDS how to cure themselves, by calling on him. Those unable to do so are advised to enclose six stamps for "THE SELF-CURATIVE MANUAL,"

* How true and even prophetic these remarks were will be seen by the account of the inquest which will be published at the end of Letter XII.

which will enable sufferers to effect a SPEEDY and PRIVATE CURE WITHOUT DANGEROUS and ABORTIVE SO-CALLED REMEDIES.—All letters to be prepaid and addressed to Dr. HAMMOND.

At home 9 till 2, and 6 till 8. Sundays 10 till 12.

By the same Author, beautifully illustrated, 100 pages (details with above),
THE MODERN ARISTOTLE; REVELATIONS ON LOVE, COURTSHIP,
 and MARRIAGE, with LIFE PICTURES.

This person and his "Self-adjusting Curative," his "Brain Restorative and Seminal Replenisher," I have already sufficiently commented on in a former letter, as also explained his real connection with the Lock and other hospitals he so knavishly associates his name with; but before leaving him, I must refer to a notice which appears at the end of his *precious* book. It is this: "Post-office orders to be made payable at the High Holborn Money Order Office, London, in the name of the Doctor's Confidential Assistant, Henry James. All letters addressed in full to Dr. Hammond, or to Henry James, Esq., No. 11 Charlotte street, Bedford square, London, W.C.

MESSRS. HARVEY AND CO.,

SURGEONS,

Weymouth Street, Portland Place.

Here is the advertisement of these parties:—

SIR ASTLEY COOPER'S VITAL RESTORATIVE (for General Debility), prepared by Messrs. HARVEY & CO., Surgeons, and can only be obtained at their residence, 44 Weymouth Street (one door from) Portland Place, Regent's Park, London, W. Price 11s. per packet; by post, 1s. extra.

It will be seen that these people have stolen the honoured name of the late Sir Astley Cooper, in order to dupe credulous sufferers. In a pamphlet they have published, they represent that the remedy has been "confided to them." The whole thing is a most impudent assumption and imposition. However, I shall have more to say about Messrs. Harvey and Co. in my next.

I now come to

W. HILL, Esq., M.A.,

Berkeley House, South Crescent, Russell Square.

This man, like H. James (of whom I have next to speak) and Dr. Hammond, is a confederate of another quack—namely, Dr. Watson; and when I come to the latter, I shall have a word or two to say on this connection.

Now I must pass on to

H. JAMES, Esq.,

Percy House, Bedford Square.

Here is the advertisement inserted in reference to this person:—

SELF-CURE—WITHOUT MEDICINE.—Life is often blighted by errors or excesses, which destroy health, induce premature decline, and mar the sacred obligations of marriage. Read the work, "The Married Happy. and the Single Happily Married," with Hints whereby "MANLY VIGOUR" can be secured to all. Local Self-Curatives for Nervous and Physical Debility, Spermatorrhœa, Incapacity for Marriage, Lassitude, Depression of Spirits, Loss of Energy and Appetite, Pains in the Back and Limbs, Timidity, Self-distrust, Dizziness, Love of Solitude, Groundless Fears, Palpitation of the Heart, Noises in the Head and Ears, Indecision, Impaired Sight and Memory, Indigestion, and Prostration, which can be immediately arrested and cured in from ten to fifteen days. Sent, on receipt of one stamp, by H. James, Esq., Percy House, Bedford Square, London.

Now this gentleman, with an innocence and modesty which are quite refreshing amidst this collection of false assumptions and pretensions, holds out no fraudulently-assumed medical titles to entrap the sufferers he addresses. He simply appears as H. James, Esq., of Percy House, &c. But, alas! Sir, I fear this is only another instance of the truth of the old adage, viz., that appearances are too often deceptive; for I find there is every reason to believe that this H. James, Esq., of Percy House, is none other than the confidential assistant referred to by Dr. Hammond, as just shown.

In short, Sir, it appears that Dr. Hammond and H. James, Esq., hunt for victims in couples, inasmuch as the Percy House, Bedford square, so grandly put forth in H. James's advertisement, is equally known in the district as No. 11 Charlotte street, Bedford square, the residence, as your readers have already seen, of Dr. Hammond of the Lock Hospital—by subscription—as any honest and charitable tailor may be in this sense of the "Lock Hospital." What the exact connection of these worthies may be to each other I know not; but certain it is they are *confrères* in their practice and advertising dodges; and no doubt the "Self-Cure" referred to in the advertisement is the precious "Self-Adjusting Curative" for which the poor boy whose case I referred to in my fourth letter paid two guineas. I need hardly add that those who may apply for the "Cure without Medicine" will find their hopes in this respect "vanish like the baseless fabric of a vision."

But to my weary task of wading through this dark morass of deception and fraud.

DR. KAHN, OF KAHN'S MUSEUM,
3 Tichborne Street.

Here is a specimen of the advertisements, for the most part inserted in country newspapers in reference to this man and his museum:—

D. R. KAHN'S PHILOSOPHY OF MARRIAGE, GRATIS.—Every visitor to Dr. Kahn's original and magnificent Museum, 3 Tichborne Street, top of the Haymarket, London (admission 1s.), will be presented with his new Handbook, to which is appended numerous and copious extracts from "The PHILOSOPHY OF MARRIAGE," a treatise on the obstacles to a happy union, and the means by which they may be effectually removed, together with an unfailing method by which the debilitated may recover health and vigour, by JOSEPH KAHN, M.D., &c. The *complete* work post free for 12 stamps, direct from the Author.

This place was opened by a German adventurer (and a most fortunate one), who styled himself Dr. Kahn, but who, some say, was nothing more originally than a German barber. However, whether this be so or not is now perfectly immaterial, seeing that he has passed away from the scene of his *successful professional practice* and returned to the country which gave him birth, with, it is said, an ample fortune derived from the suffering and credulous whom, during his residence here, he duped.

This is the individual who, himself or by his assistants—for such he had, as I shall by-and-by explain—obtained £220 from a patient and a bill for £280, as mentioned in my sixth letter. During his residence here he was sued in the courts of law for restitution of money he had improperly obtained from patients; and he was unwise enough, unlike the generality of quacks, to contest the question in open court, and, of course, not only lost his cause, but was well exposed for his pains. For many years he pursued a most successful career with his museum and other dodges, giving sometimes lectures himself to the gaping fools who visited the museum, and at others deputing this duty to his assistant, a gentleman, called Dr. Sexton.

As to the exact period when Dr. Kahn, or rather the so-called Dr. Kahn, left this country, I know not; but this so-called Dr. Sexton remains, and on him appears to rest the conducting of this flourishing establishment under its original name of Kahn's Museum. But it is said that the real proprietor of the place is a gentleman who is known in the quack world as Dr. Marston, the owner of a similar museum in Oxford street, and whose private residence, according to the

handbills delivered to the passers-by in Oxford street is 47 Berners Street, Oxford Street. As to Dr. Sexton, I have failed in finding his name in the records I have referred to.

Probably there is no instance which so aptly illustrates the success attendant on the quack museum dodge as the career of Kahn and his assistant. Kahn himself was in extreme poverty when he first visited this country, and opened a very poor place in Oxford Street. In a short time he removed to Tichborne Street, expended a large sum of money thereon, and afterwards in addition took a large house in Harley Street, which he furnished in the most splendid manner; had his carriage and pair of horses, his riding horses, and, in short, surrounded himself with every possible luxury. Now the whilom humble assistant-lecturer of former days drives up to his daily *professional avocations* in his carriage and pair or his dog-cart, to this temple of fortune, otherwise Kahn's Museum.

Next in order are the following :—

NEW MEDICAL GUIDE.

DR. SMITH, who has had Twenty Years' Practical Experience in the Treatment of Nervous Debility, &c., has published a GUIDE (138 pages) for Self-Cure. Sent to any address on receipt of two stamps. Dr. SMITH may be consulted personally (or by letter) in all Private and Confidential Cases.—Address: SMITH and Co., 8 Burton Crescent, Euston Road, London, W.C. Consultations daily from Eleven till Nine o'clock.

Post free for Six Stamps.

DEBILITY: ITS CAUSES AND CURE.—MARRIAGE AND ITS IMPEDIMENTS. How the Wretched may be made Happy, and the Nervous and Debilitated regain Health and Vigour, by means of a remedy which all may use with perfect safety. The result of twenty-five years' practical observation and experience in the most extensive practice of its kind in Europe, by Dr. MARSTON, Principal of the Royal Institute of Anatomy and Science, 369 Oxford Street, London, which is open daily, for Gentlemen only, admission 1s.

Direct to the Author's Consulting Rooms, thus :—Dr. Marston, 47 Berners Street, Oxford Street, London, where he may be consulted daily from Eleven a.m. to Eight p.m.

DR. THOMAS, of the Lock Hospital, H.G., King's College, College of Physicians, has just published a new edition of his work :—To Gentlemen who are Nervous and who fear to Marry, who intend to Marry, and whose Married Lives are Wretched and Unhappy, 205 pages, beautifully illustrated with engravings and life pictures, and with hundreds of cases cured and restored to masculine vigour. Incapacity for Marriage, Trembling of the Hands, Loss of Natural Power, Wasting of the whole Constitution, which has been weakened from the early errors of youth, showing the cause of unfruitful and unhappy unions, and how to ensure fruitful and happy marriages, showing how manly power is lost and how it can be regained, reinvigorated, and restored to an advanced period in life. Letters must be addressed Dr. THOMAS, 9 Markham Square, King's Road, Chelsea, London. Sent, post free, for six stamps; or, in a private sealed envelope, eighteen stamps. Consultations from ten to one a.m., and from six to eight p.m. "This book, which has cured and saved thousands of unhappy, nervous, and weak men, from a life of consumption, insanity, and death, ought to be read by the single and married."—*Hospital Medical Gazette.*

Here is the last on my list :—

DR. WATSON, F.R.A.S., of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, on the Self-cure of Nervousness, Lassitude, Loss of Energy and Appetite, Groundless Fears, and other Disorders, which may be cured by Sufferers themselves. Full instructions, with means of cure. Enclose two stamps.—Address : Dr. WATSON, No. 1 South Crescent, Bedford Square, London. Consultations daily from eleven till two and six till eight.

I have hurried over the last few, because I find I am exceeding my limits, and consequently must reserve until my next the remarks I have to make on these parties.

LETTER XI.

SIR,—Here is a pretty business ! As you know, in consequence of a press of professional engagements, I was much hurried, and, indeed, behindhand with my last letter. Well, in my hurry, I actually omitted all notice of one of the most notorious and time-honoured of all the quack firms ; indeed, I might describe them, in more senses than one, as the fathers of the present race of quacks. I humbly ask their pardon for omitting them from the illustrious phalanx submitted last week to the admiration of the Profession and the public ; yet, on second thoughts, it is better as it is, for these eminent men deserve a niche to themselves, standing as they do pre-eminent amongst their class for the audacity and success with which, for a period of upwards of forty years, they have carried on the numerous quack establishments they have from time to time opened and conducted.

The firm I allude to is that of

MESSRS. PERRY & CO.,

19 Berners Street, Oxford Street.

Your readers have already had a taste of these gentlemen's quality and peculiar mode of carrying on their fleecing operations—I beg pardon—their special mode of practice. I need not, therefore, dwell upon this point. They advertise a book called "THE SILENT FRIEND," and also some different patent medicines. The real names of the parties forming this firm is "Jordan," a family that has been most prolific in creating quack establishments. Years since a member or some members of this family carried on a dental establishment under the name of Mons. Mallan, in Newman Street,

and also quack firms under the style of Messrs. Lucas and Co., and Messrs. Cooper and Co. These firms have long ceased to exist, and now the establishments conducted by them are—Bright and Co., Harvey and Co., and Perry and Co. Also, in years past, a scion of this illustrious house was associated with Dr. Kahn when he opened his museum in Tichborne street; and I fancy it was from the able instruction of this individual that the *pseudo*-German doctor asked for and obtained the enormous fees he did from his dupes; for certain it is, his style of fleecing his patients was truly after the Jordan or Perry method, as disclosed in my ninth letter. The now or whilom senior partner of this firm is said to be enormously rich, and resides in a handsome private house in Bedford Square.

But there is an episode in the career of one of the members of this family, so pregnant with instruction and so illustrative of the utter recklessness and heartlessness, as it appears to me, of the senior members of the family, that I cannot help adverting to it here. The individual I refer to is, I have been told, the son of one and the grandson of another of the original firm of Perry and Co. This unfortunate young man, it appears, studied for the Medical Profession, and in due season he became a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, and also obtained his diploma from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. He thus obtained an honourable *status* both in society and in the Profession. A useful and even noble career was thus placed before him, and whatever might have been the offences of other members of his family against society, I trust that no one in or out of the Profession would have been disposed to visit the “sins of the father on the son;” on the contrary, I would hope that all would have rather held out an encouraging hand to the young aspirant to medical honours. But, alas! it would seem that the inveterate quackery and rapacity of the seniors could not resist the opportunity which thus presented itself of associating with their schemes and quackery one possessed of a legal qualification to practise. Hence was started the museum at the establishment in George Street, and the name of this unhappy young man was connected with it, and a

quack pamphlet entitled "Bright's Manual," and since then with Messrs. Bright and Co., as also with Messrs. Harvey and Co., already referred to. At length this melancholy association of the young man with the museum and pamphlet was brought under the notice of the Council of the Royal College of Surgeons, of the College of Physicians in Edinburgh, and of the Medical Council of Education, and the said result was that his name was ordered to be struck off the lists of the registers of these institutions.

For my own part, I cannot help feeling the greatest pity for this young man at thus being, as it were, cut off from the Profession. I know not what was the course pursued before these extreme measures were adopted; but, had I had a voice in the matter, before I would have sanctioned this terrible punishment, I would, in consideration of his youth, have sought the offender and pointed out to him the sacrifice he was making by thus lending himself as a stalking-horse to others. Had he then, and notwithstanding, persisted in the unfortunate and degrading association, on his own head must have rested the ultimate result. What a forcible illustration is this episode in the career of one member of the family of the remorseless greed of others? The most savage animals protect their young. These men, it would appear, in their cupidity devour theirs.

I found my last week's letter so far exceeding the ordinary limits, that I was obliged towards its close to make a bare hurried enumeration of the names of the quacks remaining to be noticed after my reference to, and remarks on, Dr. Kahn. But there are one or two amongst them that must not be allowed to pass thus unnoticed. W Hill, Esq., M.A., and Dr. Watson, of the Lock Hospital, as he announces himself, are, in an especial degree, worthy of a word or two.

I have already shown how H. James, Esq., and Dr. Hammond hunt in couples; how the Percy House, Bedford Square address of the one equally answers to No. 11 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square of the other of these two worthies; and here, before referring to Messrs. Hill and Watson, I must just pause to give your readers a piece of information which I myself have only at this moment of writing acquired, respecting the

aforesaid H. James, Esq. A young man has just called to consult me, and, in relating to me the particulars of his case, he informed me that he had been under the care, as he supposed, of the notorious Dr. Henery. Not deriving any benefit from this man's treatment, he subsequently called to consult Dr. Hammond, of 11 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square. To his extreme surprise, the party who here appeared as Dr. Hammond was none other than the same individual he had been under at the residence of the so-called Dr. Henery, and whom he had supposed to be Dr. Henery. Upon the patient asking this person how he could be Dr. Hammond, seeing he had previously passed as Dr. Henery, this two gentlemen in one said his real name was "James," that at the time the patient saw him at Dr. Henery's he was conducting that person's business, and now, in consequence of his great experience and skill, Dr. Hammond entrusted his patients to his care. However, as about this time occurred the *exposé* of Dr. Henery, the patient's eyes were opened, and this saved him from becoming again the dupe of these parties. He (the patient) had, like the Liverpool Boy, been fleeced out of two guineas for a "curative belt." Now, a similar connection to that subsisting between these men, James and Hammond (if that be their real names), appears to exist between Hill and Watson, *alias* Rackey. One residence in their case equally does double duty, like the residence of the former worthies. Thus, the Berkeley House, South Crescent, Russell Square, is also known as No. 1 South Crescent, Bedford Square.

To the uninitiated in the dodges of this class of men, and the different class of victims they seek to entrap, this double residence stratagem must appear "passing strange," but it is easy of explanation. These men and their like not only advertise in the metropolitan, but also in the country papers, thus seeking to obtain both patients resident in London, who may call upon them, and also patients resident in the country, who *will write to them*. Now, in respect to the first, as no name is placed on the doors, patients calling and asking for Hill or Watson are alike shown in, and see one or the other; and of course, if they fail in obtaining a cure from Hill, and afterwards resolve on consulting Watson, they do not fall a

second time into the trap, on going and finding the residence of the one is that of the other. But not so with country patients, who communicate by letter with these jugglers. They, failing in obtaining relief at the hands of the one, are not unlikely to fall into the hands of the other, and thus be victimised twice over by the same parties.

Really, Sir, the ingenuity and chicanery displayed by these men are something perfectly mavelloous; and if we did not know of the misery they cause to hapless sufferers, they would be not a little amusing.

With these remarks I think I may leave the other worthies I have referred to in my last letter to the tender mercies and judgment of your readers, who after the "*Revelations*" I have made in regard to their *confrères*, will be doubtless able to form a tolerably correct estimation of them,

But there is another class of advertising charlatans and impostors to whom I must briefly refer. I allude to the numerous pseudo-physicians and surgeons whose filthy hand-bills are constantly thrust into the hands of the passers along the streets. These men, for the most part, seek their victims amongst the labouring classes; and if their frauds are not carried on on such an extensive scale, they are, nevertheless, equally to be avoided.

Then there are the Retired Philanthropic Physicians, the "Patients who have been cured," *et hoc genus omne*, who with such rare disinterestedness incur large weekly expenses in advertising to forward to sufferers the means of self-cure on "receipt of two postage stamps." In a few words, one and all, from the highest to the lowest of these men, have only one common aim—viz., to fleece the sufferers who are credulous enough to seek their aid.

In my next letter, which will in all probability be my last for the present, I shall give publicity to some letters written by one or two of the quacks to their patients, and which illustrate their mode of conducting their correspondence with "*country patients*." If my space will admit, I shall conclude my "*Revelations*" by offering some comments on the whole schemes of frauds I have exposed; otherwise, I may have to claim a further space in your columns.

LETTER XII.

SIR,—According to my promise, I purpose to submit to your readers two or three letters written by the quacks and quack firms to patients who have been foolish enough to consult them.

Dr. Bolton, of Leicester, has forwarded three quack books, purporting to be published by Messrs. James Harvey and Co., of Weymouth Street, Portland Place, and he has also remitted with them some letters, which were addressed to a patient of his by these parties. In sending these documents, he states : —“This, the big red book of Harvey and Co., was brought to me by a gentleman in the country, who believed himself *incompos matrimonii*, in consequence of congenital phymosis. Dilatation alone quickly corrected Nature’s defect, and twenty minutes’ chat quickly dispelled the gloom of the incubus engendered by reading this vile volume. He had swallowed four pounds’ worth of Harvey’s coloured water. Went especially up to London to consult them in answer to letter No. 2, and, smelling a rat, escaped from an elegant drawing-room on paying a guinea, after declining to lay down £20, which was demanded. The next day he consulted me, and gave me the history of his London adventure, and produced the two red books with the two letters. When he called, Dr. Harvey was out, but after waiting an hour, ‘the Doctor’ drove up in an elegant brougham and two white horses, had only a few minutes to spare, as he was summoned to ‘Lord ——,’ Twenty pounds was his fee for the case,” &c.

“44 Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London,
“October 25, 1864.

“SIR,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter, and to call your attention to the paragraph contained in the accompanying work, page 205. You will, after perusing same, see the necessity of filling the attendant metallic case with your urine, return same by first post, so as to undergo the necessary *microscopical examination*, together with a full, minute statement of case, age, habits, mode of living, &c., as in page 206, in order that the medicine, which will be sent by return, may be so prepared as to suit your individual case.

“Remaining yours very truly,

“J. HARVEY AND Co.”

"44 Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London,
"October 28, 1864.

"SIR,—We beg to acknowledge receipt of the bottle of urine, which has been subjected to a most minute examination, by means of the microscope and test-tubes. We find it a duty incumbent on us frankly to tell you that the result of the analysis is of a nature to require *an immediate interview*. It is evident to us that the seminal vessels must be in a fearfully relaxed and distended state, and consequently unable to retain the seminal secretion, which is escaping in such quantities as to seriously endanger your general health, and consequently result in the total disorganisation of the entire sexual system, which would most certainly terminate in *impotency* unless prompt measures are at once adopted. We therefore trust to see you as early as possible, since delay in these cases is necessarily attended with danger, and you will drop a line stating *day and hour* you will be with us, so that we may hold ourselves disengaged to see you.

"Remain, Sir, yours very truly,

"C. —, Esq."

"J. HARVEY AND Co.

"November 11, 1864.

"SIR,—In reply to your letter, herewith you will receive another packet of medicine, which you will take as follows—viz., one teaspoonful from the bottle marked B, mixed with same quantity from the bottle marked E, on rising, about three in the afternoon, and on going to bed. Avoid too much drink; a glass of ale twice a day quite sufficient.

"Remain, dear Sir, yours truly,

"C. —, Esq."

J. HARVEY AND Co.

In another case, a gentleman, curious to ascertain how these men treat patients, wrote an imaginary case to them, and received the following letter in reply :—

"44 Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London,
"January 16, 1865.

"SIR,—In reply to your favour, we beg to state that Sir Astley Cooper's Vital Restorative depending for its success on a true analysis of the urine, it will be necessary for you to fill the enclosed metallic bottle with your water, and return to us, when we will examine same, and let you know the result.

"Remain, Sir, yours very truly,

"—, Esq."

"J. HARVEY AND Co.

In accordance with this request, he returned the phial filled with *female urine*, and in due course he received the following reply :—

"41 Weymouth Street, Portland Place, London,
"January 21, 1865.

"DEAR SIR,—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of metallic case, filled with urine, which has been subjected to a most minute examination by means of the microscope and test-tubes, and find it a duty incumbent on us frankly to tell you that the result of the analysis of the urine is of a nature to require an *immediate interview*. We regret to say that you are suffering from relaxation and distension of the seminal vessels, and consequent escape of the seminal fluid, which, if allowed to continue, would most certainly disorganise the whole sexual system, and terminate in *impotency*, unless prompt measures *are at once adopted*. This important drain on the system must also seriously endanger your general health; and in order to arrive at an accurate knowledge of the waste of the seminal secretion, it will be absolutely necessary to examine the urine warm from the bladder, which, of course, can only be done by a personal interview. We must advise you, therefore, on receipt of this, at once to see us, when we shall be enabled to prescribe remedies *suitable* to your case.

"And remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,
"Mr. ——" "J. HARVEY AND CO.

The same gentleman amused himself by writing to the pseudo Drs. Watson and Hammond, of the Lock Hospital, &c. Here are the answers he obtained from these worthies:—

DR. WATSON,
(Governor of the Lock Hospital.)
Member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons and of the Medical Society of Rouen.
National Academy of Sciences, Paris.
Fellow of the Imperial Institute of France.
Royal Agricultural Society of England, &c., &c.

Cheques to be crossed The London and Westminster Bank. For the convenience of Patients Letters may be addressed, and Post Office Orders made payable to Dr. Watson's Confidential Secretary, Mr. William Hill.
London, Feb. 2, 1865.
1 South Crescent,
Bedford Square, W.C.

"SIR,—I have carefully considered your case, and am of decided opinion that the principal seat of disease is in the seminal vessels, which have become much relaxed in their tone and power of retention.

"There is no doubt that the semen is passing constantly away, and the effect of the drain on your constitution will be sufficiently obvious when I inform you that the loss of one

ounce of semen is equal to that of forty ounces of blood. This is not only capable of producing all the symptoms you describe, but such is the sympathy existing between the brain and the generative functions, and if this drain of the *most vital* of all your secretions be not speedily controlled, your whole system, mental and physical, will sustain serious derangement, whilst the organs of generation themselves will relapse into a state of impotency, so as utterly to destroy all capacity for sexual intercourse.

"Although you do not at present suffer from all those serious evils, yet you may daily fear their recurrence.

"In conclusion, I am glad to be enabled to inform you that by care and attention, and at once adopting my professional instructions, there is no doubt that all further ill consequences will be speedily controlled, and a permanent and perfect cure effected.

"The treatment required in your case will be local and constitutional, therefore a 'curative appliance' is essential.

"If the means be applied at once as directed I can guarantee a perfect and permanent cure.

"On receipt of remittance, rely on prompt attention.

"I am, Sir, yours obediently,

Pro Dr. WATSON,

"J. H."

Dr. Hammond, F.A.S., F.S.A.,	Member de la Société de Médecine
F.R.A.S.,	de Rouen,
Member of the College of Physicians and Surgeons,	National Academy of Sciences,
H. G., King's College, the Lock,	The Imperial Institute of
St. Mary's and St. George's	France, &c.
Hospitals.	11 Charlotte street,
	Bedford square, W.C.
LONDON.	London, Jan. 17, 1865.

"DEAR SIR,—I have given your case mature consideration, and can arrive at no other conclusion than that your health is much impaired through the constant drain on the constitution, and unless the same be immediately and permanently arrested the most serious consequences must inevitably result.

"However, I am pleased to inform you that I can effect a perfect cure in your case by adopting the usual means which I have found so highly successful in such cases. I advise local and constitutional treatment: therefore you must wear the 'French Self-adjusting Curative' as directed, with which shall be forwarded the other restoratives and adjuncts necessary for treatment.

"The action of these remedies will be prompt and vigorous,

and cannot fail in effecting a permanent cure. Please remit, and rely on attention.

"I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,
"C. D. HAMMOND, M.D."

Other letters from the same class of men have been handed to me by patients, and one and all are written in the same style, and I consequently need not trespass further on your space in this respect. These letters speak for themselves, and need no comment from me. Especially the one which gives the result of Messrs. Harvey and Co.'s "*minute examination by means of the microscope and test-tubes*" of the *female urine* this was so laughably forwarded to them, and from an examination of which they so wisely inferred the patient was suffering from "relaxation of the seminal vessels, and, further, threatened with impotency!" But I have more serious matter to refer to.

Another victim immolated by the evil practices of the malefactors I have been for the last twelve weeks exposing and denouncing! Even so, Sir; as you will find from the account I herewith forward you of an inquest held on March 17th, at the Westminster Hospital, by Mr. Bedford, the coroner of Westminster. You will see that the jury, with much sound practical common sense, were desirous to record their condemnation of the class of books circulated by the quack fraternity. They were, however, stopped by the coroner, remarking that "the matter in question was beyond the power of the court." It may have been "beyond the power of the court" to punish the evil doers in this case, although I think that proposition is open to question; but surely the desire expressed by the jury to thus publicly protest against the publication of these vile books was perfectly within their province, and pertinent to the matter in hand. To me, it appears that this official's dictum was as unsound in law as it was assuredly wanting in common sense; for it was proven beyond all question that the insanity and death of the unhappy man were entirely due to the perusal of one of these infamous pamphlets and the evil practices of its author. Yet, forsooth, according to this most sapient coroner, it was "beyond the power of the court," *i.e.*, of the jury, to con-

demn the very evil which had caused the horrible catastrophe they were especially summoned to inquire into! Why I dwell upon this most injudicious, to use the mildest term, remark of Mr. Bedford is, because it is in the interest of the public that so certainly pernicious and, as I believe, also erroneous an opinion should not pass unchallenged or uncondemned. I trust that should, as is not unlikely, any similar case again occur, the jury will not only entertain a like sensible desire, but also give effect to it, Mr. Bedford's dictum to the contrary notwithstanding. I shall do myself the pleasure of forwarding a copy of the "Circular" to this gentleman, in the hope that this little bit of rubbing-up will brighten him up a bit. I fear he is sinking into the slough of red-tapeism.

Now, Sir, my labours are drawing to a close, at all events in your pages, for the present, and I would ask, How much longer are those moral assassins to be permitted to carry on their terrible warfare against the purses, the health, the sanity, and even lives, of their miserable dupes and victims? How long will the strange and unpardonable apathy of the Public and of the heads of the Profession in regard to the evil practices of these scamps and their abettors of the newspaper press, continue? Will nothing arouse the Public to one universal outcry both against the quacks and their equally infamous associates of the Press? Are these monster evils to continue, although in the short time occupied by the publication of these letters, we have two instances of death resulting from the hideous traffic pursued by these miscreants, especially as it would appear—according to Mr. Bedford—that they are "beyond the power of the court" and, as a necessary consequence, beyond the reach of the law? Well, be it so; and as their hands are raised against every man's, so let the Public and the Profession unite and strike as one man these arch-traitors to humanity to the death. Let war to the knife be proclaimed! Let each one of us in our individual sphere make it our heart's object to expose, on all and every occasion the schemes and the evil practices of these Pariahs. Let every member of the Profession make it his duty to explain and denounce to fathers and all his male

patients the system of fraud and extortion pursued by these infamous impostors. For my own part, if it were within the compass of my power, I would also entreat the clergy of all denominations to join in the *guerre à l'outrance* which I propose against the whole tribe of obscene quacks. As I have suggested that each, and all medical men should avail themselves of every opportunity of exposing and denouncing them to fathers and their other male patients, so would I entreat of the clergy to do the like in respect to the male portion of their congregations and parishioners. This office they could with peculiar grace assume. Their position, their sacred calling, entitle them to warn all within their influence; whilst at the same time there cannot attach to them—as there might to medical men—the faintest suspicion of being actuated by other than the most disinterested motive. Thus their warnings would have especial power.

For my own part, although my assault, in your pages, on these vagabonds will now cease, nevertheless, I will still continue to wage war upon them whilst even one only remains to be held up to well-merited public execration. My first step in this war of extermination will be to republish this series of letters in the form of a pamphlet, and at such a moderate cost as will place it within the reach of the most humble amongst the credulous sufferers who, for the most part, constitute the victims of these arch-impostors; and the same widespread publicity which they give to their vile books will I give to this pamphlet, wherein, I flatter myself, they and their infamous practices will be so completely exposed, that it must be impossible for any one reading it to become their dupe. Fighting them thus with their own weapons of advertising publicity, if the clergy and the Profession will also yield me the assistance I claim at their hands, I shall have no fear as to the result. Their doom will have been pronounced, and their death-sentence be quickly carried out amidst the execrations of all right-minded and honest men.

SUICIDE OF A CORPORAL IN THE GUARDS.

A protracted inquiry was held on march 17th, by Mr. Bedford, coroner, at the Board-room of the Westminster Hospital, respecting the suicide, under very painful circumstances, of Lance-Corporal George Ashford, of the Coldstream Guards. Colonel Strong, and many officers of the regiment were present. Serjeant James Gregory, paymaster of the 7th company of the first battalion of the Coldstream Guards, stationed at the Wellington Barracks, deposed that he last saw the deceased alive on Tuesday morning at seven o'clock. He was lying in bed, and witness asked him to get up. He did not reply, and in seven minutes afterwards he shot himself. Mr. Myers, assistant-surgeon, who was sent for, said he found deceased lying quite dead, with his feet on the bed and his head on the floor; a discharged rifle lay underneath the body. The deceased had evidently leant out of bed, placed the muzzle of the rifle in his mouth, and then pulled the trigger, whilst the stock rested on the floor. The bullet carried away portion of the brain as well as part of the skull. Witness learned, upon inquiry as to the cause of his committing so desperate an act, that he had been treated by homœopathic and quack doctors; he was not labouring under any disease. The deceased bore an excellent character, and was much liked by all his officers. Serjeant Barfield confirmed the fact of his having consulted quack doctors, and stated that he complained of being ill at Christmas. He wrote to Messrs. Smith and Co., of Burton Crescent, or of Tavistock Square, witness did not know which, and said he received from them a book called the "Warning Voice," of which he had read the third and fourth chapters. He paid £1 5s. for medicine, which he took three times a day. He afterwards became greatly depressed. Witness had often seen him look in the glass, gnash his teeth, stamp his feet, and say, "I feel I am a ruined man for life." He also asked, "What is the quickest death to die?" Witness tried to cheer him up, going with him to various places; and he (witness) was firmly of opinion that the letters he received from Burton Crescent and his reading

of the book referred to had excited his mind, and caused him to commit suicide. Up to that time deceased had always been a lively, jovial man among his comrades. A letter was found in his room by Mr. C. Ashford, accountant, Holloway who identified the deceased as his brother, briefly bidding his comrades farewell. After some other evidence, the coroner summed up, when some of the jury inquired whether, in giving their verdict, it would be competent for them to express their opinion as to the publication of such books as the one described. The Coroner said that the matter in question was beyond the power of the court. The jury then returned a verdict, "That deceased shot himself while in a state of unsound mind."

ADDENDA TO THE SECOND EDITION.

It was my intention, as I have stated in the Preface to this Edition, in the event of a second one of these letters being required, to have given a list of the principal advertising charlatans and anatomical museum-keepers—sham physicians—who infest the large provincial towns, and whose schemes of fraud are almost as nefarious as their London *confrères*. But the call for a Second Edition has come so much sooner than I had anticipated, that I have not had time to collect all the facts necessary to the accomplishment of this purpose. However, a word of general caution I will here give to such as may contemplate consulting any of these men. It is this—on no account do so, for I think I have a very full list of them before me, and I have failed in finding any one of them in the register of *legally qualified medical men*. This information should be sufficient to prevent any sane man from seeking the aid of any one of these “*dangerous classes*.”

In consequence of the publication of these Letters, innumerable communications have been addressed to me on the subject of the London Quacks, asking for further information in respect to them and their “*sayings and doings*.” I, therefore, purpose in these Addenda to refer to the more important points which have been urged on my notice in respect to some of these men and their proceedings, and which, it appears, my correspondents think need explanation.

In the first place, I have had several letters enclosing me handbills and books, purporting to be issued by Dr. Kahn, of Kahn’s Museum, 3 Tichborne street, Haymarket, and, at the same time, calling my attention to the numerous extracts contained therein of favourable notices of the museum from the *Lancet* and other medical journals; besides certificates in praise of it from eminent medical men. And I have been asked if such extracts are barefaced forgeries or not. If not, it has been further asked, how it has been possible for such a

man as Dr. Kahn to have obtained such high testimonials from medical journals and medical men. Seeing to what vile purposes this establishment has been, and is applied, I am not surprised at the astonishment expressed by my correspondents at this apparently unprecedented conduct on the part of medical journals and medical men. And yet the matter is capable of a very simple explanation. On referring in the preceding Letters to Dr. Kahn and his first appearance in this metropolis, I should have stated that *originally* his establishment was confined to a mere exhibition of wax models of different organs and parts of the human body, and of some of the diseases incidental thereto, which he had collected and then exhibited. At that time he managed to get some gentlemen connected with the profession and with the medical journals to inspect his models, and to give him the certificates and notices which are now so successfully used to decoy dupes to this Priapeian Establishment. I visited the exhibition myself at that time, and I must say that, in my opinion, it never merited the high encomiums bestowed upon it in these certificates and notices. However, be that as it may, I am sure the authors of them must now deeply regret that they ever put their hands to pen and paper in favour of Dr. Kahn's museum.

But, to resume my explanations. At a period subsequent to this, as I have mentioned in the Letters, a scion of the illustrious house of Jordan, *alias* Perry and Co., Cooper and Co., Mons. Mallan, Lucas and Co., Bright and Co., Harvey and Co., became associated with the so-called Dr. Kahn, and I fancy it was then that the idea was first instilled into Kahn's head of converting the museum into a trap for, as *Punch* has it, "green young men." But be this so or not, it is certain Kahn could not have formed the acquaintance of any one so competent to instruct him in those quack dodges which he subsequently and so successfully adopted, as this scion of the house of Jordan—a house the different members of which have figured before the world under the various aliases I have just enumerated. Let the reader, therefore, distinctly understand that the notices and certificates referred to were given under a very different order and state of things to that which now

prevails ; and I know that it is a source of deep regret to the authors of those notices and certificates that they were ever given. I explain the matter thus fully, because many unfortunate persons have assured me that it was in consequence of these notices and certificates that they were induced to consult the sham medical men now connected with this den.

At the very time the foregoing remarks were passing through the press, I received a communication, and had an interview with a gentleman who seems well posted up in regard to the earlier career in this country of the man Kahn, and his assistant Sexton, now falsely styling himself Dr. Sexton. From the information afforded me by this gentleman, I learn that Kahn, at the instigation of Sexton, had, before he was joined by one of the Jordan family, commenced his career as a quack. At that time, Sexton (who, this gentleman tells me, first commenced his career in London as a missionary) used to lecture at the museum, and in the lectures attacked in a virulent manner the Perry and Co. gang as it then existed. The latter, it is presumed with a view to stop these attacks, gave Kahn large orders for models. These models Kahn got made by a third party, and then sold them to Perry and Co. at a large profit. At this time Kahn was in great poverty, and, it is said, had it not been for the money he got for these models, he would not have been able to keep the museum open. This continued for some time, the more models Perry and Co. bought, the more Sexton abused them in his lectures. But at last some arrangement was come to by which this novel war was ended, and one of the Perry-and-Co. Jordans became associated with Kahn in the management of this great quack establishment. The money, and the knowledge of quack dodges thus imported into the concern, soon led to the realisation of enormous sums of money, and henceforth Kahn became, as it is termed, "a made man." But now a disagreement with Sexton arose, and he was dismissed from his post of lecturer. However, it appears he was not the man to submit to the pecuniary loss this dismissal involved ; and confident in his knowledge of the nefarious practices of his whilom associates, he wrote a work, the intended publication of which he announced in the following handbill :—

“Time’s glory is
To unmask falsehood, and bring truth to light.”

In a few days will be ready—Price One Shilling,
THE HISTORY AND MYSTERY
OF THE
GREAT KAHN-QUACKERY.

BY
CHRISTOPHER CRUSHGAMMON, ESQ., M.D.
(Professor of Anti-Humbug in the University of Shambruiser.)

“Ad populum phaleras ego te intuset in cute novi.”—*Persius*.

“Oh Kahn! oh Kahn! thou’l get thy fairin,
In type they’l roast thee like a herrin.”—*Burns* (slightly altered).

By perusing this small work, any person having been victimised by the nefarious and disgusting quacks therein exposed, will see that not only can they, without the least inconvenience, compel the impostors to refund every farthing they have taken, but may also, in most cases, prosecute them for obtaining money under false pretences.

Published by WILLIAM FREEMAN,
3 Queen’s Head Passage, Paternoster Row.

All Communications to be addressed to the Author,
care of the Publisher.

"The divill was wont to carry away the evill,
But now the evill out carries the divell."—*Ben. Jonson.*

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OF PROFESSOR CRUSHGAMMON'S "NEW WORK."

CHAP.

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- II. Origin of the great Kahn-Quackery.
- III. First Introduction of Kahn to the Curtis-La'mert-Perry Gang of Jew Quacks.
- IV. "The Shoals and Quicksands of Youth," the greatest shoal of all—Kahn turns Author by proxy.
- V. Curiosities of case making—History of each of the cases in Kahn's Book, from which the public infer "his great experience."—Starts with case 5,560 before he has ever seen a patient.
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- X. History of the Models in the quackshop called "Dr. Kahn's Museum," labelled "Operations successfully performed by Dr. Kahn," and "Cases treated with great success by Dr. Kahn."
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- XVII. Consolation for the Kahn victims.
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Unfortunately for the interest of the suffering public and society at large, the promised exposure was never made, if indeed it ever was really intended to be made. The circulation of these bills caused the greatest dismay amongst his *ci-devant* comrades; and the upshot of the affair was, the MSS. were given up, and Sexton found himself the fortunate owner of an annuity of seventy pounds, or thereabouts per annum for a certain term of years.

Before concluding my remarks on "The Great Kahn-Quackery"—now, mark, reader, conducted by the sham Dr. Sexton, otherwise Christopher Crushgammon, Esq., M.D.—I would especially direct the reader's attention to the promised contents of the "New Work." What an insight into the system of chicanery and fraud which was carried on in this den does the table of contents afford! How suggestive and instructive it is!! And, in this light, I am greatly pleased at having it in my power to place it before the public as a beacon to warn them of the "*Shoals and Quicksands*" pertaining to the "Great Kahn-Quackery."

The next subject which has been brought under my notice by some correspondents, and by certain circumstances, is the recent proceedings of Robert Jacob Jordan, of 29 George Street, Hanover Square. At pages 60 and 61 of the Letters I have referred to, this unhappy young man's brief career in the *legal professional ranks* of medicine, and his ignominious expulsion therefrom, and I could have wished to have been spared from making any further and more distinct allusions to him, but his proceedings since evince such unblushing effrontery, that I am most reluctantly compelled to inflict upon him a further amount of exposure and castigation.

First, I would direct the attention of the reader to the letter from this worthy which is printed in red ink on a fly-leaf, at the commencement of the Letters with the heading "*First Fruits*." A similar letter to the one addressed to me was sent to the editor and to the publisher of the *Medical Circular*, and these gentlemen, in common with myself, in the belief that the statements contained therein were correct, gave publicity to it. My readers will, therefore, easily imagine our astonishment on finding that, notwithstanding the assertion of Robert

Jacob Jordan that the premises were now solely occupied by him for his professional practices, that advertisements purporting to emanate from Messrs. Bright and Co., of 26 George street, Hanover square, continued to appear in certain country newspapers. From this I conclude the letter to have been a mere dodge, and that under cover of the elastic phrase "*own practice*" is included the carrying on the pretended firm of sham physicians and surgeons of Bright and Co. But, notwithstanding the amazing amount of brazen impudence which this conduct displays, it is yet surpassed by the still more recent proceedings of this trafficker in false medical firms, and this assumer of medical titles to which he is no longer legally entitled. Within the last month or two the following advertisement has appeared in most of the London newspapers:—

EXPOSURE OF QUACKERY AND QUACKS.

By PROTECTOR.

Price 6d., by post 7 stamps.
Clarke, Warwick lane, City, London.

Now, who does the reader suppose this "Protector" is? Why none other than the Robert Jacob Jordan I have so often had in the preceding letters to refer to in connection with the pretended medical firms of Bright and Co., 29 George street, Hanover square; Harvey and Co., Weymouth street, Portland place; and Perry and Co., Berners street, Oxford street. Surely the force of impudence can no further go! Fancy such a man styling himself and setting himself up as a "Protector" of the public against the fraudulent practices of Quacks!! A friend, looking over my shoulder, suggests that his doing so is, perhaps, on the principle of setting one class of nameless gentry to catch another!! But, however this may be, the author of this miserable *brochure* does not even fulfil the task he has assumed. The title and its contents are a catch-penny affair, and, like the medical firms with which he is connected, false and fictitious! From the beginning to the end its whole aim is to create a false impression of the status of its author, and by extracts from the *Lancet* induce the erroneous notion that the author, in publishing the *brochure* in question, is carrying out the views and wishes of that journal. The allusions to the London Quacks are only

in general terms, and, in short, the whole thing is a brazen attempt to puff himself, and to palm himself off on credulous readers as their Messiah rather than an "*Exposure of Quacker, and Quacks.*"

The following is an example of false assumption which, as I shall presently show, has brought on Robert J. Jordan the well-merited rebuke of the *Lancet*.

In the introduction to this precious production the following passage occurs :—

"The want of a short, concise account, which has for its aim the reader's benefit, will, it is hoped, be fully carried out; and if apology be deemed necessary in so important a relation, the following extracts from the pages of the *Lancet*, the recognised organ of the medical profession, will, it is hoped, prove sufficient apology for the present step, enabling as it does every reader to become capable of selecting and discriminating between the merits of the duly qualified medical man and the surreptitious possessor of assumed titles, under which the rogue too often passes for the honest man, to the continuous danger of health, time, and money.

"The object in writing these pages is to teach the public at large how to discriminate between the legitimate duly qualified practitioner and the legion of charlatans who infest every town in the United Kingdom, and more particularly London. That this is a subject of the gravest importance cannot for a moment be doubted when it is considered that, dating from our entrance into the world, 'from the cradle to the grave,' we too often require the valuable services of the accoucheur, doctor, surgeon, or physician, in consequence of departing from Nature's laws, increased state of civilisation, and overtaxed condition of the mental and bodily systems, necessitating from time to time the knowledge and attendance of the medical man. Under these circumstances it behoves each individual to be placed on his guard, so as to be made cognisant of the means to detect the nefarious, unqualified, and dishonest charlatans, in order to save the one in search of health from falling in their meshes, and thus jeopardise the welfare of his nearest and dearest objects. The laws of the country, public opinion, and private information, have and are doing much to save the reputations of those who have made choice of the medical profession, thereby exposing themselves to be placed on a level with some with whose names we will not soil our pages, *nor indirectly offer the advantages of publicity*, for it has well been remarked that to be mentioned with disparagement is to

these preferable to not being mentioned at all, and thus it very often happens that the veil to hide a motive is so flimsy that even the uninitiated are enabled to catch a glimpse at the mystery within.

“The ability and probity with which this medical journal is conducted, cause its advice and admonitions to be viewed and acted upon with that feeling of certainty which has caused it to stand alone as a guide or an authority in all matters connected with the medical profession.”

Vide Lancet of the 2nd February, 1859, No. VII., Vol. I.

“The treatment of the vesiculæ seminales has almost been left by the profession as a legacy to *charlatans*. No really great work has been written on these diseases by an eminent medical man, either in England or on the Continent. In Germany I know of none. In France, but Lallemand’s work—a large cumbrous mass of incoherent facts and erroneous theories. In England none—excepting the scanty chapters (the best of the kind, doubtless, but still far too limited) that appeared in the *Lancet* some short time since. Why, then, do not some of our eminent surgeons write a treatise on this much-talked-of disease, and, by such means, do something towards removing it from the province of quackery?

“We can all remember when the practice of midwifery was almost exclusively in the hands of ignorant old women. It was not considered respectable for medical men to practise it. The College of Physicians, long after the other bodies had given way, refused its diploma to the accoucheur. Now it is not considered beneath the dignity of men of the greatest standing in the profession to practise midwifery: some of the most eminent members of the College of Physicians are accoucheurs, and the College of Surgeons has a special examination upon it. The result is, the old midwives, as a race, have nearly disappeared. Let some hospital or other surgeon take up the subject of spermatorrhœa—treat us to a work upon it, and it will do very much towards drawing patients from the vortex of empiricism.

“The author, in publishing copies of his medical and surgical diplomas, has been induced thus to act from suggestions made in the *Lancet*. *Vide Lancet of the 12th February, 1859, No. VII., Vol. I.*”

Now, it is obvious this is a gross attempt to induce any credulous readers of this so-called “Exposure of Quackery and Quacks” to believe that the proceedings of Robert Jacob Jordan, *alias* Bright and Co., otherwise Harvey and Co.,

originate from suggestions made to him by the *Lancet*, and consequently have the approbation of that Journal.

Let us, therefore, see how far the inference sought to be created by these references is borne out by facts. Robert Jacob Jordan, *alias* Bright and Co., otherwise Harvey and Co., is pleased in the preceding quotations from his book to express himself thus in regard to the character and the position held by the *Lancet* as a medical journal.

“The ability and probity with which this medical journal is conducted, cause its advice and admonitions to be viewed and acted upon with that feeling of certainty which has caused it to stand alone as a guide or an authority in all matters connected with the medical profession.”

Such being the opinion of Robert Jacob Jordan of the standing and authority of the journal in question, I presume he will accept its dictum in respect to his own proceedings in the matters to which I am referring, with all the respect with which I myself on this occasion am disposed to regard it. Here, then, is the opinion of that journal in reference to the pretended “Exposure of Quackery and Quacks,” and this very attempt of Robert Jacob Jordan, with the aliases, to create a belief in his readers’ minds that his proceedings are sanctioned by the *Lancet*. Under the heading of “Notices to Correspondents” there appeared in the *Lancet* of July 8, 1865, the following:—

“ROBERT J. JORDAN.

“The *brochure* entitled ‘Exposure of Quackery and Quacks,’ by Robert J. Jordan, is one of the most impudent productions of the horde of advertising venereal vultures. It is a scandalous state of things which permits this person to advertise himself by the titles of Colleges which have struck him off their lists for infamous professional conduct. With unblushing effrontery he pretends to have the countenance of this journal, which has more than once expressed its loathing of the whole class to which he belongs. Seeing that there does not seem to be any means of legally punishing the continued false assumptions of titles, we should think it a proper step that the names of Robert J. Jordan and others struck off the Register should be advertised by the officials of the Council or of the respective Colleges in the public journals. The public is not protected by the mere act of striking off, and it would be right that it should be apprised officially that this has been done.”

At pages 24, 25, and 26 of this impudent production, I find the following remarks on "the cowardly Quack Doctor":—

"If the public is sought to be protected and promised protection from the garrotter, why not from the cowardly Quack Doctor? But not more strange than true, we daily observe it as a lamentable fact that a vast number of patients prefer to be treated by the scurrilous race of charlatans than by the regular and duly qualified practitioner.

"However unwilling I may be to hold up to scorn those whose transactions will not bear the sunlight of honest publicity—however loth I may feel to soil myself with the contact of their writings—I yet am forced, by private convictions and public philanthropy, to brand with the stigma of falsehood and dishonesty a class of creatures (I cannot call them men), whom I will ever feel it my duty to pursue, attack, and combat till they shall have become powerless to do evil, and thus save my fellow-creatures from the fangs of the rapacious and wicked, who, like the wolf in sheep's clothing, endorse a garb for private motives of self, at the expense of their innocent victims.

"The glaring impositions, fraudulent means, assumed titles, fictitious names, and a variety of other acts with which the trade of charlatans stands charged and convicted, have at last roused the ire of the press and public opinion, and it is in this cause that silence becomes sinful. On the part of the medical profession, as one of its duly qualified members, I feel the part now taken by me one which it is the duty of my fellow-practitioners to pursue. It is needless to inveigh in private against the crying evil, nor are the pages of a journal necessarily confined to the medical profession sufficient to stay the current of refined and cowardly practice pursued by this nest of ravenous wolves. The same medium by which these self-styled doctors make themselves and their obscene writings known, must be the one by which we must, single-handed, pursue the delinquents and expose their vile practices."

Oh! Robert Jacob Jordan, when writing this fierce denunciation against the "cowardly quack doctor" with the "fictitious names," had you no thought of your associates, Perry and Co., and no remembrance of the "*fictitious firms*" of Bright and Co., and Harvey and Co.?

Truly you are likely to prove a precious "Protector" to credulous sufferers from (to use your own words), "the fangs of the rapacious and wicked, who, like the wolf in sheep's

clothing, endorse a garb for private motives of self, at the expense of their innocent victims,"

I now invite the attention of "Protector" Robert Jacob Jordan to the following cases illustrative of the practices of Messrs. Bright and Co., of 29 George Street, Hanover Square, also the residence, as the lawyers have it, of the said Robert Jacob Jordan, otherwise Bright and Co., otherwise Harvey and Co., of Weymouth Street, Portland Place, and the coadjutor of Messrs. Perry and Co., Berners Street, Oxford Street.

A few weeks since a sergeant of ——— regiment, in consequence of having read the "Revelations," called to consult me. I quickly saw that he was one of a numerous class of nervous patients, who, when they have once been unfortunately indoctrinated with the spermatorrhœa mania, spend years of their lives and all their money in running from one quack to another, in the vain hope of obtaining a cure for their imaginary malady. Here is the history of his career in this miserable course for some time before my seeing him.

Having accidentally seen in an officer's room one of the vile quack books which are published with the sole view of frightening foolish young men into the spermatorrhœa monomania, he read it, and straightway began to fancy that he was labouring under spermatorrhœa. At length, this delusion obtained such a hold on him, that he determined on consulting the author of the vile book. I need hardly say, this worthy assured him that the semen was passing away with his urine, and that his case was a very bad one. In short, the usual course, as revealed in the "Letters," was adopted, and the victim frightened out of thirty pounds. About this time he was under orders to go to China, and when the quack heard this, he wanted him to take out with him a cargo of his (the quack's) vile books and to circulate them in that country; promising him, if he would do so, that he (the quack), for the future, would supply him with medicines gratis? The only result of his application to this impostor was to confirm his nervous fears, at a cost of the amount stated above. Cure there was none, nor was it likely there could be, seeing his disease was purely imaginary. On his return to England he

was attracted by the advertisements and books of Messrs. Harvey and Co., of Weymouth Street, Portland Place, and accordingly called on them. The person he saw there, on some pretence—I forget what—*marched him off to 29 George Street, Hanover Square, the abode, as we have seen, of Robert Jacob Jordan, and of Messrs. Bright and Co.!!* And thus he first made the acquaintance of Robert Jacob Jordan; I beg pardon, I should say of “Protector” Robert Jacob Jordan. Need I add, that his case was pronounced to be one of spermatorrhœa? Well, yes it was, and a fearfully bad case too, and, of course, such a case would be very expensive to cure. A hundred pounds was talked about, but finally, fifty pounds was the sum demanded, and agreed to be paid for the cure, being, in fact, all the poor sergeant had in the world. This amount he paid at a subsequent visit. It is useless to detail the course of treatment; it will suffice to state that, on his visit to me he remained under the spermatorrhœa delusion, and of course *uncured*. With a view to relieve his mind, if possible, from his miserable fears, I examined at different times several samples of urine which he brought me, and on no one occasion did I find the slightest trace of semen therein. Upon this, I told him, that although I could not of course swear that the statements of Robert Jacob Jordan, or Bright and Co., or Harvey and Co., or whoever it was he had seen in respect to his urine containing semen, were erroneous, yet I did not believe them. Upon this he said, if those statements were false, it was a very hard thing that he, a poor man, should have been induced to pay such a large sum for the cure of a disease which did not exist. As I fully agreed with him in this view of the case, I told him that if I were placed in a similar position to his own, the course I should follow would be just this;—I would call upon Robert Jacob Jordan, and state the result of the examinations of the urine which had been made, and the opinion given thereon. I would then say:—Whether I am right or wrong, or the opinion given right or wrong, I know not, but it is now my fixed belief that I did not labour under spermatorrhœa, and that semen was not constantly passing from me in my urine at the time I first consulted you. Under these circumstances

I must demand from you the money I have paid you. And, mark me, if it is not paid back, as I am a poor man, and cannot employ a lawyer (as others have done under somewhat similar circumstances) to get it back, I shall take the law into my own hands, and give you the soundest horse-whipping ever a man had ; and leave you to adopt what course you like. The sergeant left me much delighted with the novel mode of treatment I had suggested and promised to carry it out. How far he did so, as I was not present, I cannot say. But I learnt that, after a stormy interview (in which I came in for some abuse), a promise was given to return him twenty pounds if he would call again in two hours' time, and a further sum of five pounds in a week or ten days. This he agreed to. I should have stated that I had previously recommended him, if he could get back about thirty pounds, to be satisfied with that amount. On his calling again, he was required to sign a paper, and twenty pounds was then paid him, and in due course, according to the promise made, the further sum of five pounds was remitted to him, and thus he obtained a restitution of half of the amount he had paid. Having already invited "Protector" Robert Jacob Jordan's attention to this case, I leave it to the reader's judgment without further comment, and proceed to the narration of another, having, in the first instance, reference to the firm of Perry and Co., Berners Street, Oxford Street.

A young gentleman from the North came up to London to consult Messrs. Perry and Co., under the delusion that they were respectable and legally qualified medical men. He saw a young man there, who, having heard the particulars of his case, desired him to void his urine, as it would be necessary to make an examination of that fluid in order to ascertain if his semen escaped when the urine was voided. The victim having complied with this request, the young man stated it would require two hours to make the necessary examination, and appointed the patient to meet him again at the end of that time, not at the residence of Messrs. Perry and Co., Berners Street, Oxford Street, but, "*passing strange*," at that of "Protector" Robert Jacob Jordan's and Messrs. Bright and Co., 29 George Street, Hanover Square ! The patient

kept this appointment, and had, in consequence, the advantage (if such it be) of seeing the Anatomical Museum pertaining to this establishment. In accordance with the strange fatality which appears to attend on all the applicants to the kind of gentlemen I am discoursing of, the patient was informed that the result of the examination showed his urine to be full of semen. Then followed the usual course of exaggerated representations as to the fearful consequences resulting from this state of things—"difficulty of cure," "expensive remedies," "two hundred pounds fee," &c.,—ending in the patient giving a cheque for one hundred guineas in return for a promised cure of his malady.

After a time the difficulties of the case were stated to be so great that a demand for an additional hundred pounds was made. This was refused, but a further sum of fifty guineas was paid. Subsequently the patient got the strange notion into his head that he had been duped; and like a stupid ill-conditioned fellow, actually employed a solicitor to recover the money from "Protector" Robert Jacob Jordan. A suit was instituted against that gentleman, and subsequently compromised on "Protector" Robert Jacob Jordan returning a portion of the money. Commending this case to the reader's judgment as illustrating the fitness of Robert Jacob Jordan for the office of "Protector," which he has assumed, I pass on to another having reference to Messrs. Harvey and Co., of Weymouth Street, Portland Place.

Some month or six weeks since a gentleman called upon me in a state of great excitement, and in a very hurried manner began to tell me he feared he was suffering under spermatorrhœa. Requesting him to be calm, I questioned him as to his reasons for thinking so, and in the course of his answers I felt satisfied he had been alarmed by some of the Quacks; I therefore asked him point blank if he had been to any one of these men. Upon this he exclaimed, "I may as well make a clean breast of it," and gave me the following history of his antecedents:—He informed me that he had been married some years and had a family, that he had always led a chaste life, and never suffered under any form of venereal disease; and, in short, except being what is called "nervous," enjoyed

good health. One day there arrived at his house, by post, a book addressed to him. On opening it, he found, to his astonishment, that it was one purporting to be written by Messrs. Harvey and Co., of Weymouth Street, Portland Place. Being unoccupied at the time, he commenced reading it, and somehow his attention was attracted to the subject of spermatorrhœa and involuntary losses of semen on expelling the urine. Now, previously, he never had an idea that men were liable to such a malady; but after reading the horrible book he began to fancy that he might, perhaps, unknowingly, labour under the disease. At length this idea obtained such a hold on him as to induce him to resolve on consulting some one, and as he thought the reputed authors of the book in question were legal and respectable members of the medical profession, he resolved to seek their advice. Accordingly, in unhappy ignorance of the "*modus operandi*" of the Quack fraternity, he drove up in his carriage to the residence of Messrs. Harvey and Co., in the same way that he would have driven up to that of any respectable member of the profession. On seeing the representative of this firm, he stated the object of his visit. He was at once desired to pass water, and on his having done so, the representative of the firm left the room, taking the urine with him for the purpose, as he said, of testing and making the necessary examination of it. After an absence of nearly an hour, during which time the unhappy patient had worked himself into a most nervous state, the representative of the firm returned, and with great gravity said he regretted to inform him that the urine was loaded with semen! Then followed the usual alarming and exaggerated representations of the consequences of the said disease, which I have already had occasion to relate. A fee-book was produced, in which it was made to appear that patients had paid "One thousand pounds for a cure," five hundred, and so forth. Well, after a great deal of discussion, the patient declared his willingness to pay a fee of one hundred guineas. No sooner said, than he was asked to write a cheque. To this he objected.—Accept a bill. No.—He would bring the money next day. Accordingly, the next day he paid a second visit to Messrs. Harvey and Co.

and handed over the amount of the fee in bank-notes. Shortly after this, travelling up from the North, at one of the railway stations he purchased the number of *Punch* of the 12th of April last, wherein, under the heading of "*Guide to the Quacks of London*," the publication of the first Edition of these letters was so favourably noticed. On reading this article, he was immediately struck with a fear that he had been duped. As soon as possible after his arrival in London he purchased a copy of the "*Revelations*," and hence his visit to me. After some further conversation with him I came to the conclusion that there was nothing the matter with him, and finding that the loss of one hundred guineas was of no consequence to him, I recommended him to consider he had expended that sum in a very foolish manner, and dismiss the whole affair from his mind. This he promised to do. I accidentally met him some weeks after in a railway carriage, and he told me he was very well, and his mind perfectly quiet, and his groundless fears entirely removed.

This case affords a very remarkable illustration of the evil the circulation of these infamous books produces when they fall into the hands of persons of a nervous, timid temperament. Here is a man who, previous to his seeing the vile production in question, was in happy ignorance of even the existence of such a disease as that termed spermatorrhœa; yet, straightway, on reading the horrid contents of this trashy book, he fancies that he may possibly be a sufferer under the disease; and, under this miserable and groundless fear, offers himself a ready victim to the schemes of Messrs. Harvey and Co., as developed in the preceding history.

If it were necessary, I could relate other and somewhat similar cases, in illustration of the practices of Messrs. Harvey and Co., of Weymouth Street, Portland Place, but I fancy my readers would think my doing so superfluous. From the history of these cases the reader will see that the "*fictitious medical firms*" of Perry and Co., and Harvey and Co., are in active communication and co-operation with the equally "*fictitious*" firm of Bright and Co., of 29 George Street, Hanover Square, and that it appears that in some way or another Robert Jacob Jordan, whose residence is also at 29 George

Street, Hanover Square, is in intimate and active association with one and all of these "*fictitious*" medical firms. From this my readers may draw their own conclusions as to how far it accords with the fitness of things, for Robert Jacob Jordan to constitute himself the "Protector" of the credulous and suffering public from the evil practices of men who, under "assumed titles" and "fictitious names" prey upon "*green young men*." I thank, thee, *Punch*, for that phrase!

Although it is foreign to the scope of these letters to enter into any mere medical discussion having reference to the nature and treatment of spermatorrhœa, yet I must here pause in my replies to the inquiries and remarks of my correspondents, to make some observations in respect to the invariable assertions of the quacks to patients, that "*their urine is full of semen*." Now, it will no doubt astonish the uninitiated in these matters, to find what an accepted and fixed idea this urinary spermatorrhœa, so to speak, has become in the minds of this class of patients. But the truth is, the loss of semen in this manner has been so insisted upon in quack books, and even by some respectable medical men, that at length it has come to be regarded in the public mind as a very common malady; and hence the ready credence of patients to the assertion of the quacks that "*their urine is full of semen*." I shall, perhaps, equally astonish a majority of my readers when I assert, as I now do, that, so far from the malady in question being a very common one, it is the rarest of all the diseases to which "flesh is heir;" that is, according to results of my experience and researches. And here are some of the recent facts on which I base this unequivocal assertion—facts which accord with my past experience and inquiries. Now, I have taken notes of the result of the examination of nearly three hundred samples of urine brought to me by one hundred and one patients, under the idea that they were suffering under urinary spermatorrhœa; and, indeed, the majority of them had been told by some one or other of the quacks that they were so suffering. And, incredible as it may appear to the believers in the frequency of urinary spermatorrhœa amongst the profession, I only detected semen in one sample! Again,

twenty-six of these one hundred and one patients, in addition to bringing samples of urine, brought also, on glasses, portions of secretions which had escaped from their urethra on their voiding their fæces, and which they thought was semen. The examination of these twenty-six samples of presumed semen gave this result—fifteen contained semen, eleven were entirely free from that secretion. So we find that, although fifteen of the one hundred and one patients were actually liable to involuntary seminal losses under other circumstances, and, therefore, judging *à priori* one would think be especially apt to suffer under urinary spermatorrhœa, yet out of this number of fifteen, only one (for it was in the urine of one of the fifteen that I detected the semen) laboured under that malady. Surely such facts as these must tell their own tale! However, whether they do so or not, I cannot stop here to enforce the lessons I think they must teach, but must pass on from this digression to resume my replies to my correspondents.

To the different correspondents who have forwarded me hosts of quack advertising, having various *ad captandum* headings as thus—“*Valuable Information Gratis*,” “*An Act of Gratitude*,” “*For Gratuitous Circulation*,” &c., &c., I would merely reply, that such advertisements are one and all so many traps to catch the credulous and unwary under the specious pretence of affording them the means of “gratuitous cure,” or “self-cure,” and then having once entrapped them, plunder them with the same amount of unscrupulous greed as the more unblushing quack does.

Then I have had several letters addressed to me, asking why I omitted all allusion to the *Strand Museum*. I have also seen two or three foolish young men who have been plundered at this den. In answer to these inquiries, I can only say that the omission was accidental. At the same time I would remark I should have thought that the information contained in the “*Revelations*” would be sufficient to prevent any one in his senses from seeking the aid of any keeper of such establishments. But it seems there are a class of patients so intensely foolish, that nothing short of being actually mistreated and robbed, will satisfy them as to the true character of these

quack impostors. Fancy, reader, any one after having read the "*Revelations*" writing to ask me if Dr. Watson, whose Lock Hospital and other quack dodges are therein exposed, "*was a proper person to consult.*" Yet such a letter did I receive. By-the-bye, as I am speaking of the Strand Museum, I may as well here give the particulars of a recent trial at Croydon, having reference to the owner of this place and his doings in the "*Doctoring and fleecing line.*"

HOME CIRCUIT, CROYDON.

CIVIL COURT, THURSDAY, AUGUST 3.

RUDDOCK *v.* LOWE.

THE plaintiff complained "for that the defendant, falsely and fraudulently representing to him that he was a duly-qualified physician of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, induced the plaintiff, who then believed the representation, to employ the defendant, and place himself under his treatment, and pay him fees; and whereas, in truth and in fact, the defendant was not a duly-qualified physician of the Royal College of Surgeons in England, by means of which the plaintiff was greatly injured in health, and lost the monies he had paid." The plaintiff further complained, in a second count, that he employed the defendant at his request as a physician and medical practitioner (which he then professed and represented himself to be), to attend upon and treat the plaintiff for a certain malady with which he was then afflicted, for reward, to the defendant on the terms that he would use due care and diligence in the treatment of the plaintiff. But that he so carelessly and improperly conducted himself in the matter, and prescribed such improper and unskilful medicines and treatment, that the plaintiff's malady was aggravated and hindered, instead of being alleviated or cured, and the cure thereof was retarded, and the plaintiff was put to great expense, and suffered unnecessary pain, &c. Further, the plaintiff in a third count complained that the defendant professed himself to be a medical practitioner, undertaking among other things, the treatment of a certain disease and disorder, and that the plaintiff employed him, for reward, to attend upon and cure him of the disease, the defendant guaranteeing him that he would effect a perfect cure, but that the defendant did not do so.

Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Laxton, and Mr. Philbrick were for the plaintiff; Mr. Serjeant Ballantine and Mr. J. P. Murphy for the defendant. The plaintiff was described by his counsel as the keeper of refreshment-rooms at theatres, but described himself as a waiter. The defendant was stated to have been for some months proprietor of the "Anatomical Museum" in the Strand, the suppression of which was avowed to be one of the objects of the action. At the "Museum" in question busts of celebrated personages are, it

appeared, put outside, and figures of portions of the human frame are to be seen inside. Admission was gratuitous, but it was stated that visitors were told that there were other things to be seen inside on payment of sixpence. This, it was suggested, was to attract to the defendant patients suffering under the disease alluded to, and which it was stated he professed to cure. With the same object it was said he had put forth a publication replete with those devices to excite terror and alarm, which are usual in publications of a certain class. Passages were read from this publication, which, it was said, was put forward by the defendant to attract patients. At the end of the publication, the defendant, who, it was said, was not a regular duly-qualified practitioner, added: "A few words about myself," in which he held himself out as a master in the art of healing sexual disorders. "I have," he said, "established a free college of physiology and anatomy" (the exhibition in the Strand). He denounced the use of mercury or mineral medicines, and declared that he relied solely on vegetable antidotes. "I seek my remedies abroad," he wrote, "where the ever-blooming balsam is fanned into health-giving potency by the freshening breeze of heaven." "Thus," he added, "I have been able to establish a practice in which I stand alone, and am to be seen every day between the hours of 10 and 4, and on Sundays between 11 and 6." "I never," he subjoined, "undertake a case unless I can guarantee a perfect cure." To which was added his address, at the "Strand Museum." This pamphlet, it was said, was circulated among those who entered the museum; and in December last it was represented that the plaintiff, attracted by these means, was induced to consult him, and place himself under his treatment, with results which he declared had been extremely injurious. The defendant was denounced by plaintiff's counsel as a "quack doctor," who had entrapped and terrified the plaintiff for the purpose of extorting his money out of him.

The plaintiff, being called, described himself as a waiter, and produced and verified the book referred to. Passing the museum, he said, a man at the door invited him in, and while he was there one of these books was put into his hand. Having a certain disease, he took the book home, and having read it, he went again and saw the defendant, and, after asking him if he were Dr. Lowe (which he said he was), desired his advice. The defendant said it was a "very bad case," and gave him medicine, &c. He said his charge was two guineas, and it was paid. The plaintiff stated that the defendant said he "was not one of those quacks who advertised themselves; and that he never undertook a case unless he could guarantee a perfect cure." As to this, however, it was observed by the learned Judge that the real and substantial question would be whether there had been any negligence or want of due care and skill in the treatment of the plaintiff, which was assented to by the plaintiff's counsel. The plaintiff stated that there were many other visits, and a good deal more medicine, &c. The visits were once or twice a week up to February, when the plaintiff, as he said, found

he was getting worse instead of better, his mouth being sore, and his teeth loose in his head. He complained of this, but the defendant advised him to go on until, at length, having paid him between £30 and £40, finding that he was no better, but rather worse, and that his "funds were getting low," he left him, and went to a Dr. Donoghue and placed himself under his treatment. This was in March, and after this, in consequence of his state of health, he had to resign his situation. Such was his story. But it was elicited that, although he told the defendant he was "going to be married," he had already been married for some years. He had paid defendant, he said, £37 out of his savings, though his wages were only 25s. a week. His attorney, he said, was Edward Laurence Levy, to whom he had been recommended by a scene-shifter, a friend of his. He was pressed as to whether he did not know that Levy was a friend of Lowe—that Lowe had sued Levy, and that this was really Levy's action, and that Levy had put him forward to sue Lowe in consequence of Lowe having sued him. This, however, he denied. In re-examination he stated that he had taken some of the medicine to Dr. Donoghue, who said he had been "treated very badly." Dr. Donoghue was called to support this by his testimony, and stated that he found the plaintiff under salivation, and suffering from the action of mercury, and that he had been treated improperly. He examined the plaintiff's medicine and found that it was composed of bichloride of mercury (corrosive sublimate), camphor, and colouring matter; and there seemed, the witness said, to be also some tincture of cantharides, for there was a smell of cantharides in it. There were four grains of the mercury in a bottle, and if the patient took two table-spoonfuls a day he would take a grain a day. He stated that in such a case as the plaintiff's, corrosive sublimate was never administered at all by anyone who knew anything of medicine; and the symptoms described by the plaintiff would arise from the administration of it. It would never cure, but only aggravate the disorder. The mercury had done the plaintiff, he added, so much injury that he would be weak for some time, and such a course of mercury would have an injurious effect upon his constitution. He stated, further, that he had seen several other persons who had complained of maltreatment by Lowe. Every hospital student would know that corrosive sublimate was not a proper medicine in such a case. The plaintiff might have been cured in about three weeks by any one who knew anything of medicine. Dr. Canton, one of the chief surgeons of Charing-cross Hospital, who had examined the plaintiff, was likewise called to confirm his case. He described him as in a weak state, and still suffering from soreness of his mouth, loss of appetite, and restless nights. He stated that, to administer in such a case two table-spoonfuls a day of a mixture containing four grains of corrosive sublimate, would be improper treatment; nor ought it to be given at all in such a case. Soreness of the mouth and loosening of teeth would be symptoms arising from its administration, and he saw traces of a sore in the mouth, but did not himself

observe the loosening of the teeth when he examined the plaintiff a day or two ago, when, it will be observed, the plaintiff had been for some time under other treatment. To give corrosive sublimate, in solution, in any such case would, he said, be excessively improper. He was asked, in cross-examination, on the part of the defendant, whether he did not know a Dr. Abercrombie, who practised at the museum, and he said he had met him in practice, and supposed him to be a regularly qualified practitioner. And as the plaintiff had been asked if he had seen "Dr. Lowe" in court, it was understood that it was intended to convey that the person who had treated the plaintiff was really Dr. Abercrombie, and not Dr. Lowe. It may be stated that two persons were sitting behind the defendant's counsel, one of whom was said to be Lowe, and the other Abercrombie. As to this curious question, Dr. Canton was asked, on re-examination, whether he knew anything of this Dr. Abercrombie, and said he had never seen him but once, on this single occasion, and he knew nothing at all about him. Upon this question of identity the plaintiff was recalled, and a stout person, who had been sitting behind the defendant's counsel, standing up, the plaintiff was asked whether that was Dr. Lowe, and he said it was, and that he had taken a bottle a week of his medicine all through the time from December to the end of March. He was then asked as to the person described as Abercrombie, who also was present, and sitting beside Lowe, behind the defendant's counsel, and the plaintiff stated that he, Abercrombie, had never treated him at all.

This was the plaintiff's case.

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, in opening the case for the defendant, said that he was not insensible to the difficulties by which he was surrounded. If the question had been the propriety of keeping a museum of this description there could be but one opinion upon it. No doubt it was a nuisance, but that was a question for the parish authorities irrelevant to the present issue, and a topic introduced for the purpose of prejudice, and to induce the jury to find their verdict on a collateral ground. The sole question for the jury was whether the defendant, by an act of negligence, had inflicted an injury upon the plaintiff. Whether the defendant was living reputably, and carrying on a reputable trade, was perfectly immaterial. Except for the obligation cast upon him by professional duty, he would not be a party to defend a man who had resorted to the publication of such pamphlets as those which had been referred to in order to obtain patients. Such practices were most mischievous and injurious; he denounced and discountenanced them in the strongest terms. They admitted of no palliation; and he agreed with all that had been said upon that point. He quite admitted the evil of such an establishment as that kept by the defendant, but there were other evils even greater than that. It was a greater evil for persons to endeavour to make a property of their vices and their crimes, and to set up unjust claims against those whom they imagine are at their mercy for the purpose of

extortion. The jury would see that the present case was of that description. It was a sham and a trick, and the case for the plaintiff had been created out of non-existing facts. The whole case for the plaintiff he declared to be an utter fabrication, based upon the grossest falsehood and deception. "I," said the learned Serjeant, emphatically, "say nothing whatever in defence of the means adopted by the defendant to carry on his business. Such means are, I consider, disgraceful, and I should be ashamed of myself if I said a syllable in their favour. I feel bound to go further, and to declare that such means of carrying on such a business are a scandal and a disgrace to the metropolis, and that it is most desirable that the proceedings of such persons should be put a stop to, if they can be, by any means which are just, proper, and fair, but not by persons no better than themselves, and seeking to make a profit and a property out of them." The idea of any intention of extortion in such a case, the learned Serjeant said, was absurd. Such extortion was attempted in cases of this class against persons whose rank, wealth, and position in society made them averse to resort to regular practitioners for the treatment of such disorders, and fearful of disclosure and exposure. It was not against waiters and potboys that such measures of extortion were likely to be attempted, for what cared they for exposure? The defendant, no doubt, might be very unfit to practise in medicine; very likely the jury would be of that opinion before the end of the case, but it did not follow that he was to be subjected to a process of persecution and extortion at the hands of others worse than himself. He was placed in a position of great difficulty in conducting the defence, and still greater difficulty now than yesterday, for since yesterday Abercrombie had disappeared. Perhaps that person might fancy that by skulking out of court in this way he might escape the consequences of his conduct in connecting himself with such practices and such an institution. But he (the learned Serjeant) hoped that in this Abercrombie would prove quite mistaken, and that proper inquiries might be made by those to whom the care of the profession was entrusted, which might lead to the exclusion from its ranks of a person who could lend himself to the purposes of such an establishment as this. Continuing his opening of the case for the defence, the learned Serjeant said his client, the defendant, would deny ever having seen the plaintiff, and it would be shown that this and other similar actions had been got up by Levy out of spite against Lowe. In conclusion, the learned Serjeant said with energy, that he avowed he never was in a case in which he felt less sympathy with his client or less anxiety on his account. He felt far more anxiety on account of the interests of public justice in this point of view,—that while it was, no doubt, of the utmost importance that such a nuisance as this should be suppressed, it should not be by means of actions so scandalous as this and the other actions which had been instituted under the auspices of Levy against the same defendant.

The defendant was then called and examined as a witness. He

admitted that he was not a medical practitioner, and that he had connected himself with Abercrombie in December as a "protection," Abercrombie being a registered member of the Royal College of Surgeons. He stated that he had been threatened with a prosecution in December for practising without being registered. For this reason he had not himself, after that, seen or treated patients, and that he had never seen the plaintiff before yesterday, and never treated or attended him at all, and that there was no corrosive sublimate in his establishment that he was aware of, and that he never used mercury as a medicine in any disorder whatever. He was, moreover, examined as to his former acquaintance with Edward Laurence Levy, the plaintiff's attorney, and as to differences between them, which it was suggested had led to these actions. To this there was a vehement objection on the part of the plaintiff's counsel on the ground that such matters were wholly irrelevant in this action.

Mr. Justice Crompton observed that the case for the defence was in substance that these actions, including the present, were the result of a conspiracy, to which the present plaintiff and his attorney were parties, and the whole case for the plaintiff was a fabrication, the result of that conspiracy. That being so, he did not clearly see how he could exclude matters which were put in evidence as means of proving the defence; though on the other hand, the limits of such evidence might be open to considerable doubt and difficulty. On the whole, he was disposed to admit the evidence, but only in a general way, and not entering into particulars.

The defendant then stated that he had been intimate with Levy, the plaintiff's attorney, and brought an action against him, and that after that action the present and other similar actions were brought, the writs in which were issued by Levy, and, as he believed, out of spite, and the result of a conspiracy.

In cross-examination of the defendant by Mr. Hawkins, it was elicited that he had, since the age of sixteen or eighteen, been connected with the turf, and taken an interest in racing. He had not qualified in this country as a medical practitioner, and had been threatened with a prosecution for practising without being qualified, but he said he had a diploma from the "Reformed Medical Society of America," for which he was examined and paid the sum of two guineas. He had practised in Glasgow for some years in the cure of these disorders, and had issued there, as here, little books of the character which had been described. Copies of two of the books put forth from the "Strand Museum"—one under his own name, and the other in the name of Abercrombie, were put into his hands, and passages read, and he was challenged, amid roars of laughter, to verify them upon oath. He admitted that as many as three-quarters of a million copies had been distributed at the doors of the museum or in the street. He declared that the letters put forth, purporting to have been received from patients, had been received, but he admitted that some addressed to himself had been

published as addressed to Abercrombie. He was challenged particularly with this passage in his book :—"I seek my remedies in far-off climes ; some in the distant prairie, some in the ever-blooming balsam ; in the western climes, where eternal summer reigns," and, amid roars of laughter, he was asked to state what remedies he had got from far-off climes or the distant prairie, and, after much pressure, admitted that he could not state any, though he had been, he said, abroad in America. He was asked whether he had not been with Abercrombie last night, and he admitted that he had been, and that he wanted him to appear to-day, but that he would not, being, as he said, "afraid of exposure in the public press."

In re-examination it was elicited that in December he had been written to by Mr. Bowen May, who, it was stated, was attorney for some medical society, and that to protect himself from the perils of penalties for practising without qualification, he had not, after December, treated or attended any patient, but had employed Abercrombie to do so, and he positively swore that he had never seen any of the plaintiffs in these cases.

This was the case for the defence ; no other witness but the defendant himself was called in support of it.

Mr. Levy was then called to rebut the suggested case of the conspiracy. He said he had no concern in the action "*Adams v. Lowe*," and though he admitted that he was attorney for the plaintiffs in two other actions against Lowe, by persons named Nevill and Norton, he denied having sought them out or in any way instigated them to bring those actions. He swore that Nevill consulted him in November or December, and the present plaintiff not until March last, and he said he saw Mr. Lowe about Nevill's case, and continued to see him as before.

In cross-examination he was asked why he had not taken proceedings in the case of Nevill before. He said it was because he was seeing Lowe about the case, trying to get him to pay something in it. He was shown a bundle of letters from himself to Lowe, which he admitted were applications for money, though not, he said, for himself, and which, he said, he could explain. It was not, he said, until April that Lowe declined to pay anything in the case of Nevill, and on the 22nd of April Lowe issued a writ against him. On the 28th of April he issued the writ of Nevill's action, and in June the present action was brought. Being asked how Nevill and Norton came to him, he said he did not know, but he believed they were sent by "theatricals."

Mr. Serjeant Ballantine, in reply upon the part of the defendant, admitted that he might fairly be called a quack doctor, and an advertising doctor, and one who advertised himself for the treatment of disorders which required the highest medical qualifications, and which ought not to be treated by any who had not those qualifications. But still he insisted that his client was, at all events, entitled to justice, and that his own positive oath that he had never seen any of these plaintiffs, coupled with the singular fact that three such actions should have been brought by Levy against him, after a quarrel between

them, was sufficient, under the circumstances, to warrant the suggestion that the actions were the result of a conspiracy, and an entire fabrication. And the probability of this being so was augmented by the circumstance of Mr. Bowen May's letter in December, threatening the defendant with prosecution for penalties, after which it was very probable that he would, to avoid those penalties, employ Abercrombie—as he swore he had done—to practise in his place; in which case, of course, the plaintiff's whole story must be false, for he had sworn that Lowe had personally treated and attended him. No doubt, said the learned Serjeant, those who acted irregularly and improperly must expect to have enlisted against them the prejudices of society; but he earnestly appealed to the jury to decide the case irrespective of those prejudices, and entirely upon the evidence in the case.

Mr. Hawkins, in reply upon the part of the plaintiff, denounced the defendant not merely as an unqualified quack, but as a fraudulent quack, and described his defence as wholly founded upon falsehood, supported as it was by no other evidence but his own. He asked if the whole of the evidence taken together did not show beyond a doubt that the plaintiff had been most improperly treated and had been most shamefully swindled by the persons who carried these nefarious practices at the place in the Strand. It was suggested on the other side that the whole of these cases was the result of a conspiracy; that they were all a fabrication and concoction; that the plaintiff in each case was a sham plaintiff; that none of them had ever been to this museum and got treated and attended there at all; that, in short, it was all a fabrication, and all this was to be believed upon the unsupported testimony of a person like Lowe. Why, if there had been such a conspiracy, that respectable, regular practitioner, Dr. Donoghue, must have been a party to it, for he swore to the presence of mercury in the medicine, which the defendant denied, and it appeared upon his evidence that this was not the first case of the kind that had occurred. The flagrant falsehoods in the book put forth by Lowe utterly, he contended, destroyed his credibility, and it was too much to be asked upon his sole unsupported testimony to believe in a conspiracy to which a host of persons were supposed to have been parties. It was idle to suppose that the plaintiffs in these cases would have lent themselves to such a conspiracy, and be prepared, without any advantage to themselves, to support it by perjury. It was admitted by Lowe's own counsel that he kept a "museum" for which he ought to be indicted for a nuisance, where three-quarters of a million of copies of these disgusting little books were distributed—books designed to excite terror in the minds of those who read them, and entrap them into his hands as patients for real or supposed disorders. It was by practising upon terror thus excited that their money was to be extorted. Could there be a system more nefarious? It was admitted to be so; the defendant's own counsel admitted it, and it so entirely confirmed the plaintiff's story that it was ridiculous to pretend to treat it as a concoction. Why did not Lowe call the man

who showed up patients in this foul place in order to prove that he never saw the plaintiff? But there was no one to support his bold denial and his audacious pretence that the whole case was a "concoction" and a "sham." Moreover, a whole evening, a night, and a morning had interposed in the course of the trial, and if the plaintiff's story was in fact a fabrication, it could easily this day have been proved to have been so. But no attempt had been made to show any part of his story to be false, save by the defendant's unsupported testimony. As to these sort of persons not preying upon potboys or waiters, why they would prey upon any one they could get hold of, potboys or peers. (Laughter.) It was too much to suppose that a transaction extending over nearly four months—from December to the end of March—and comprising as many as twelve or thirteen weekly visits, could possibly have been a "concoction," the result of a "conspiracy." Contradiction would be so extremely easy. No wonder it lasted so long. The doctor could afford to be patient. He did not take the stuff; he only pocketed the fees. (Laughter.) The symptoms under which the unhappy plaintiff was suffering, were described by one of the most eminent medical men in London (Dr. Canton) as those of corrosive sublimate. Somebody must have administered it, and Dr. Donoghue swore he detected it in the medicine furnished by the defendant. His mouth was sore, his teeth were loosened in his jaws, his appetite was destroyed, his nights were restless, his strength was gone, his general health was weakened, his constitution was enfeebled and endangered. The idle suggestion that it was Abercrombie and not Lowe who had attended the plaintiff (besides being inconsistent with the pretence that the whole story was a concoction) was destroyed by the flight of Abercrombie, who shrank from coming into the witness-box to swear to it. The whole theory of conspiracy was based upon the single fact of a quarrel between the defendant and the plaintiff's attorney. What could be more idle? On the other hand, there was the undoubted fact of the existence of the "museum," which was denounced by the defendant's own counsel as a nuisance, and the fact of the circulation of these filthy books, which the defendant's own counsel denounced as disgraceful. These books themselves, with their pretended letters, showed that the defendant was not only a quack, but a fraudulent quack. His own confession was that he was so. He confessed that he had been prevented from practising himself by the fear of penalties for the want of all qualifications, and so he used the name of Abercrombie as a "protector." A "protector" not to the poor patients, the fools and idiots who were entrapped into the foul place—no, not to them, but to himself. And letters in the very same language, and with the very same signatures—in fact, pretended cures by himself, were put forth as addressed to Abercrombie! This was his own story. Was it too much to say that such a man was a self-convicted quack, and a fraudulent quack? And upon the sole and unsupported testimony of such a man was he to be acquitted, and a number of persons convicted of a "con-

spiracy?" It would be scandalous if men who carried on such disreputable business should be allowed to escape all responsibility upon such flimsy pretences. Teach these men by your verdict, said the learned counsel in conclusion, that if they maltreat patients they will have to pay for the sufferings they cause—for the ruined health and weakened constitution of their victims, and read a salutary lesson to an impudent and fraudulent quack.

Mr. Justice Crompton, in summing up the case to the jury, said the main ground of complaint was that the defendant had treated the plaintiff badly and improperly, and with such want of proper skill and knowledge that, instead of getting better, he got worse, and had to endure a great deal of suffering, and sustained serious injuries to his health; and if the patient was entitled to maintain this cause of complaint, then he would be entitled to recover compensation for the injuries he had sustained. The great question seemed to be whether his story was true; for the defence, in substance, was that it was a fabrication, and the result of a conspiracy. Whether that was so or not seemed to depend entirely upon the evidence of the defendant. He denied ever having seen any of the plaintiffs, and said the whole case was the result of a conspiracy between them and Levy, the plaintiff's attorney, out of spite or revenge on his part—that, in short, the whole case was a fabrication and a sham. It was certainly a very strong thing to set up this defence, and it was for the jury if they could believe it, and really suppose that the entire story was a fabrication. In substance the question came to this—whether they believed the story on one side or the other. The plaintiff's story was certainly confirmed by Dr. Donoghue, and it hardly seemed likely that he would be a party to any such conspiracy; and the jury would consider whether it was at all probable that these plaintiffs would be parties to it, and come here to set up stories all of which were pure fabrications. Levy might have been ready enough to bring these actions, but the idea of a conspiracy to bring them really seemed somewhat far-fetched. There was positive evidence of a competent medical man that mercury was in the plaintiff's medicine, and that he had no business to have had it, and, indeed, the defendant in his books himself denounced it as improper, and professed to deal in "balsams" and vegetable medicines, which he described in very flowery language. (Laughter.) The real question was whether the patient really saw Lowe, and whether Lowe gave him this stuff, to the presence of mercury in which Dr. Donoghue had positively spoken. It was too much to suppose that he was a party to the suggested "conspiracy," and yet the defendant denied giving any mercury at all, or having any in his establishment. And Dr. Donoghue, who saw the plaintiff immediately after the alleged treatment by Lowe, said distinctly that he had not been suffering from any complaint for which mercury was proper, so that it came to this—whether the plaintiff got the stuff from Lowe, for it was proved by Dr. Donoghue to have contained mercury, and it was admitted that mercury would be improper. The plaintiff's case in substance was that the de-

fendant had injured him by giving him mercury, and if the jury were satisfied of this, then he was entitled to recover compensation for the injuries he had sustained.

The jury, after a brief consultation, returned a verdict for the plaintiff—damages, £100—a verdict which seemed to give general satisfaction, and, indeed, elicited some audible expressions of it.

ADAMS *v.* LOWE.

This was a similar action against the same defendant.

Mr. Ribton was for the plaintiff; the same counsel appeared for the defendant.

The learned counsel suggested a short adjournment with a view to a settlement. Ultimately a verdict was taken by consent for £70.

The other cases were not entered for these assizes.

Here is a pretty picture of the internal economy of this class of establishment. As to the assertion of the fellow Lowe that the man Abercrombie, who is now acting as his “protector,” is a duly registered member of the Medical Profession, for the credit of the Profession I would fain hope that it is not so. But if it be truth, I trust that the Council of Medical Registration will soon take action in the matter, and erase his name from the rolls of a profession which he has disgraced by his association with such an institution as the vile Strand Museum, and such an impostor as the man Lowe. I am happy to say that this den is now closed.

In conclusion, and in reply to numerous correspondents who have addressed to me their approbation and thanks for the information afforded to the general as well as the suffering public through the publication of the “Revelations,” I can only say that the kind way in which they have one and all expressed themselves has been a source of unmixed pleasure to me, and in itself amply repays me for all the toil and the risks I have incurred by their publication.

ADDENDA TO THE THIRD EDITION.

AFTER the publication of the First Edition of the "Revelations" I formed the determination, if a Second Edition should be called for, to endeavour to give a history and a list of the Country Quacks who infest the large towns of England, Scotland, and Ireland. But the sale of the First Edition was so rapid that a Second was needed long before I could collect the materials wherewith to carry out my intentions. So there was nothing for it but to republish a Second Edition without the proposed history and list. But then I consoled myself with the idea that long before a Third was required I would obtain all the requisite materials. But alas! for frail human intentions (however good) here I am with my publisher knocking at the door for the MS. of the intended additions for a Third Edition without my being prepared to comply with his demands to the extent I had hoped. The simple fact is, that on referring to the advertising columns of the newspapers published in the United Kingdom, I found in the majority of them such numbers of obscene Quack advertisements, having reference to both the London and Provincial Quacks, that I was at once convinced the task I had proposed to myself was an impossible one. At the same time I was reluctant to abandon altogether my long-conceived idea. And thus I have come to a kind of compromise with my good intentions. It is this, that I will give selections of the kind of Quack advertisements I would hold up as a sample and a caution to "Green Young Men."* And I will also give some account of the "sayings and doings" of one or two of the principal and most successful (in fleecing the public) Provincial Quacks. But before doing this I have a word or two to say about my old friends the London Quacks, and their more recent dodges.

* *Punch*, April 12th, 1865

I have in the first place the pleasure of informing my readers that the Jordan-Perry gang, who had for so many years successfully carried on their different establishments of obscenity and fraud under the assumed names of Messrs. Perry and Co., Berners Street; Messrs. Harvey and Co., Weymouth Street, Portland Place; Messrs. Bright and Co., George Street, Hanover Square, have been compelled to close every one of these vile establishments. And I am happy to say I am informed that the Robert Jacob Jordan, to whom reference is made in the preceding letters and observations, has emigrated with his museum to America. That he has departed from his country for his country's good I am sure few will dispute, but how far his arrival on the American continent is to be deemed a blessing to its inhabitants is another question. Alas! for our American cousins, if all I hear from a few Americans who have consulted me be true, I fear he (Robert Jacob Jordan) and his associates are reaping a rich harvest from the "green young men" of the great republic. It is to be devoutly wished that sooner or later, if this be true, a little "lynch law" may be applied as a corrective of the evil practices of these men if they continue in their new sphere of action, the bare-faced extortions and frauds they pursued in this country. By-the-bye, I was pleased to see that some medical man of New York had republished in that city these "REVELATIONS," with a view, as stated in the advertisements which appeared in the New York newspapers, to protect the public from falling victims to the schemes of the adventurous travellers seeking for dupes in the far-off country. Well, then, the Jordan, Perry, Harvey, and Bright gang may be considered, so far as this country is concerned, as "*hors de combat*." But hold, if there be any "green young man" who may be disposed to grieve over the loss of these valuable members of society, he may yet console himself with the intelligence that I am informed that the man Sexton referred to in the letters in connection with Kahn's Museum has left that den of terror, and it is now under the direction of some one or two remaining members of the Jordan family. So there is balm in Gilead. If anyone desires to avail himself

of the professional services of a member of this gifted family he has only to apply to Kahn's Museum, and he will doubtless meet with the treatment he deserves, if not with that he might require. Thus, then, the firms of Perry, Bright, and Harvey may be deemed defunct. Good!

Now I have a word or two to say about a few other of the worthies who figure in my "Guide to the Quacks of London."

The Quacks I refer to are Messrs. Watson and Hill, and Messrs. Hammond and James. Some of these fellows have, since the publication of the "REVELATIONS," assumed another *alias*, or associated themselves with some other parties who advertise from the same residences as Watson and Hill, Hammond and James, have done for years past. Thus, I find there are now appearing in most of the country newspapers advertisements of the same nature and wording as those inserted with the names of Hammond and James appended to them, but with the new names of Dr. Harrison, Dr. Jenner. *The addresses of these new names are the same as those of Hammond and James.* Does the reader think I should be very far out if I ventured to guess that Hammond and Harrison may be one and the same? whilst it is equally probable that the worthy Dr. Jenner might prove to be no other than the veritable James. At all events, that there may be no mistake, I now give the address of Dr. Hammond from my "Guide." Here it is: Dr. Hammond, 11 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square. Now for the "*novus homo*." In the *Galway Express* (I like to be particular) of September the 16th, 1871, there appears an advertisement with this heading: "*New Life for the Exhausted.*" Then follows the usual trash about self-cure, spermatorrhœa, electricity, &c., &c., and then the name and address—Dr. Harrison, 11 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London; and this, mark, reader, is the address also of the Dr. Hammond referred to in the "Letters." Now for James. In the same paper, and of the same date, there also appear an advertisement with this heading: "*Nature's Curative (Electricity and Magnetism),*" and the name appended to the advertisement is Walter Jenner, Esq., and the address given is Percy House, Bedford Square, London; and this is the address of James as given in the "Guide to the Quacks of

London!" Can James and Jenner be one and the same? O green young men, beware! And, further, note this: The 11 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square, London, as given in the Hammond-Harrison advertisements, is equally called and known in the district as the Percy House, Bedford Square, of the James-Jenner advertisements; *so that Hammond-Harrison, James and Jenner, are all residents in the same house, if not in co-operation with each other.*

With regard to Watson and Hill, I have not observed any advertisements in which the former's name is altered. But I have remarked an advertisement of the usual class in some of the country papers in which the name of Hillier is used, whilst the address given is the same as that of W. Hill, Esq., Berkeley House, South Crescent, Russell Square. And mind, reader, that as in the case of Hammond's and James's addresses, the Berkeley House, South Crescent, Russell Square, is equally known as No. 1 South Crescent, Bedford Square, the address of Dr. Watson. Thus Watson, Hill, and Hillier, would all appear to be residents in the same house, which, if they are not in co-operation, is, to say the least, an extraordinary coincidence.

I have found this juggling with names and addresses very puzzling to patients, and have often smiled to myself when they have told me as something strange, that after they had withdrawn themselves from one of these worthies they have received by post a pamphlet from some other of the quacks, another of them, the explanation being, that when one of these men has victimised to the utmost the unfortunate dupe, the office is given to another of the gang to seek and entrap him by sending another book, apparently written by a totally different person, and, strange as it may appear, this dodge is too often successful.

As to the other London Quacks I have only to say that they continue their career with more or less success. But I fancy that the increasing sale of the "REVELATIONS," is surely, although too slowly, cutting the ground from under them, and I cannot but please myself with the hope that, advancing in years as I am, I may yet live to see the time when the places that knew them shall know them no more.

Let here I must pause, and revert to Dr. Watson, as at this moment of writing I have received by post from the country a most vile book, to which this man's name is appended. It is entitled the "Lady's Medical Friend." At the first glance a casual reader would think that it was a mere puff and recommendation of himself. But, whilst in a brief and popular manner referring to some of the more frequent maladies to which women are liable, and recommending in many cases for their cure what is called "The French Preventive Lotion," there is an under-current of suggestive crime which is truly appalling. The person who sent me the vile production marked the following passage :—

"THE LADIES' FRIEND IN NEED!!!

"*The Uterine Protective*.—This combination of botanical extracts, the result of years of experience, is now offered to ladies of this country as a truly safe and never-failing remedy for producing the monthly flow. Though perfectly harmless to the most delicate, yet, females should not mistake their condition, as miscarriage would certainly ensue. "22s. per case, with instructions."

Now, supposing any unfortunate female to be pregnant, and also to be simple enough to believe in this asserted action of the "Uterine Protective," I fear it is more likely that she would remit the 22s. and use it, perfectly heedless of the pretended caution. In short, right or wrong, it appears to me that this is nothing more or less than a bait to get unfortunate women to send 22s., in the hopes that by purchasing and using the "Uterine Protective" they will get themselves out of their "*trouble*." I see by a notice at the end of this pamphlet that William Hill is therein described as the Secretary of the so-called Dr. Watson.

Now in regard to the country quacks, there is scarcely a large town in England, Scotland, and Ireland, that is not overrun with these vermin ; consequently, as I have already stated it will be impossible for me to refer *seriatim* to each of these

rogues. I must content myself with making a selection of a few of them, to serve as an example and a caution.

From all I hear, I should imagine that one of the most bare-faced and successful of the provincial quacks is the man who advertises himself as Dr. Hunter, of the so-called Institute of Anatomy, Birmingham. Here is a sample of one of his advertisements :—

DR. HUNTER'S Special Lectures to Young Men on HEALTH, ITS RESTORATION AND HAPPY MARRIAGES.—When to marry, with advice to those who contemplate marriage, pointing out certain impediments which render married life unhappy, and directions for their speedy removal. Should be read by all who value health, strength, and manhood, and wish to attain a happy old age.—Post free on receipt of two stamps.—Address, Secretary, Institute of Anatomy, Birmingham.—[Registered.]—*Oxford Times*, July 2, 1871.

and to this I will add a series of letters, which were written by the so-called Dr. Hunter, to a patient who was fool enough to place himself under the care of this individual.

“INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY. “44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
“ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. “*June 1st, 1869.*

“DEAR SIR,—We are in receipt of your letter and enclosure, for which we now offer you our best advice under the peculiar circumstances of your case. It is with much pleasure we can inform you that although you have done yourself considerable injury by the practice you speak of, the evil is not irreparable, and its direful results may be entirely prevented by the employment of a course of remedies which, during an extensive, and we may confidently say, highly successful practice, we have never yet known to fail, when our patients have implicitly abided by our instructions. Much depends upon the firmness of the patient himself, and if you will rigorously conform to our directions, the result will realise your most sanguine hopes. The bottle containing the urine we duly received, and have submitted the same to a very careful examination, and we readily and at once, by the aid of the microscope, detected the spermatozoa in the urine in large quantities, and are of opinion that the semen has been unnaturally escaping in the same way for a considerable time ; the effect this would have upon the generative system ultimately would be a gradual wasting of those organs, which would cause impotency, and the least excitement would occasion the loss of your virile power, which, as no doubt you are aware, has a very debilitating effect upon the whole system, bringing on palpitation of the heart, nervousness, and other diseases, because your system is deprived of that support which nature requires. The seat of your disease is in the seminal ducts, or vessels conveying the seed from the testicles, which have become weakened by the practice mentioned, and are unable to contain their contents ; the mouths of these vessels opening into the urethra behind the prostrate gland have enlarged, and the semen escapes in the manner described. The removal of these symptoms cannot, however, be effected in a day or a week ; but if you place yourself under our care for about ten weeks, we have not the least doubt of effecting a permanent cure, our usual fees for which, in cases like your own, are ten guineas, which sum includes consultations, the course of remedies, &c. On receipt of this amount, by post-office order or otherwise, we will forward full instructions for your subsequent guidance, together with the necessary supplies

of the remedies. In the course of treatment we adopt, no particular change in diet is necessary, neither is it requisite to neglect business, nor alter the great habits of life. No deleterious ingredients are employed by us, but the cure will be imperceptibly, safely, and surely effected by the remedies we administer. The medicine we now send is for the purpose of preparing your system for the peculiar alteratives and tonics we intend to supply, and we are satisfied that in a short time we shall deserve, and we trust, receive, your heartfelt thanks for our exertions in promoting your temporal happiness, and ridding you of those distressing feelings of which you now complain. The dose of the medicine is one tablespoonful three times a day, which will prepare your system for the remedies described.

"Yours very faithfully,
"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY. "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "*June 5th, 1869.*

"DEAR SIR,—We are in receipt of your letter, and regret to hear you are not in a position to forward our charge for the course of treatment to effect your restoration to health. We are at all times anxious and willing to meet our patients' wishes, as far as is consistent and practicable; and under the circumstances mentioned in your letter, will send you the remedies on receipt of five guineas, although it is not customary for us to do so. Considering it would be more satisfactory, we stated the sum for which we can supply the whole course of treatment necessary to effect your cure, and you can either remit and have the whole of the remedies sent for your restoration, or, if more convenient, you may pay for the medicine as you receive it, the charge for which is 11s. per bottle, four for 33s., and six for 50s., and twelve for £5. Awaiting your reply,

"We are, yours faithfully,
"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "*June 21st, 1869.*

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter and enclosure are to hand. The passage you refer to in our book, of course, only applies when a patient sends for a packet of our patent medicine, and not applicable when we prepare a special course of treatment; therefore, please remit the one pound to make up the five guineas. In the meantime, we will prepare the treatment, and forward same on hearing from you.

"Yours faithfully,
"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY. "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "*July 8th, 1869.*

"DEAR SIR,—We sent the two bottles when we sent our first letter of advice, and told you in the letter we had sent a packet of medicine, and intended you to take the two bottles first, before commencing with the treatment. The dose is one tablespoonful three times daily, before meals. As you have only just received the last packet sent, you had better discontinue that medicine until you have taken the two bottles, and then go on with the treatment as advised in our last.

"We are, yours faithfully,
"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
 "ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "Aug. 19th, 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—We have sent you the other six bottles of medicine and pills, to be taken as before. You do not state what symptoms remain. Should you not feel restored when what we now send is finished, you had better remit the balance and have the remedies to complete your cure. We informed you at first that the full course of treatment to effect your perfect restoration would cost ten guineas. You will require an external application to use with the treatment we shall send, to restore your sexual power, which increases the erecto power in the muscles, and consequently gives the natural power and desire.

"We are, yours faithfully,
 "J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
 "ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "Sept. 6th, 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—We are not surprised to hear you do not feel so much benefitted by this time as you anticipated. Until the loss of semen in the urine is entirely checked, and sufficient time has elapsed for the seed to become infused into the nervous system, you will not feel benefitted by the remedies ; but by persevering and following out the entire course of remedies, we have not the least doubt of being able to satisfactorily effect your restoration ; and when the medicine you have is finished, by remitting the balance, five guineas,—(we do not include the preliminary consultation fee in the sum we named for the course of treatment to effect your recovery), we will then specially prepare and forward the packet of remedies sufficient to complete your cure, of which we have not the least doubt ; but under no circumstances do we ever send the special treatment to cure until our charge is paid ; therefore, the sooner you remit the balance, the sooner your recovery will be effected, and you may rely on being permanently restored. Should what we send fail, we will send more medicine until the cure is completed, free of any further charge, as we want nothing but what is straightforward.

"We are, yours faithfully,
 "J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
 "ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "Oct. 6th, 1869.

"DEAR SIR.—We are just in receipt of your note and enclosure for balance, and now send the packet of medicine to remove the remaining symptoms and complete your cure ; please take one dessert-spoonful three times daily and one pill morning and night. Keep your bowels regular whilst taking the medicine, and should any symptoms remain when this supply is finished write us fully, and we will send you what further advice we deem necessary. Continue to follow the directions in our previous letters in all respects.

"We are, yours faithfully,
 "J & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY. "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
 "ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "Nov. 16th, 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—We are this day in receipt of your letter, and doubt not the remedies have had a beneficial action upon the nervous system generally. We now feel convinced the sole cause of your case being so protracted, and the symptoms you describe continuing so long, is owing to the erecto muscles and seminal arteries having been seriously injured by the fatal habit, probably there is an entire loss of muscular strength

in the organs ; to remedy this in bad cases we are often obliged to make use of an external application. It will be requisite for you to have a silver solution prepared for bathing the parts, and rubbing the same into the muscles on each side of the penis, and also the testicles, about twice or thrice daily, this application would be certain to brace up the relaxed muscles, and give tone and elasticity to the weakened organs. We feel quite certain that this remedy would cure you, and, if you adopt this course, we shall only charge you the cost of the solution, which would be five guineas for the whole quantity. It would also be advisable to continue taking the remedies whilst using the solution ; if you remit in a few days, we will prepare the solution to have the effect described, and forward the same, with a further course of medicine, which will act in conjunction with the external application, and for which, under the circumstances, we will make no extra charge.

"We are, yours faithfully,
"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "*Nov. 24th*, 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—We regret any misapprehension should exist relative to our charges, as it is our wish to act consistently with our patients. If you refer to our first letter of advice you will at once see that, in undertaking your case, we advised a course of treatment for ten weeks, the charge for which would be the sum mentioned ; at the time we certainly fully expected this course of remedies would have been sufficient to have restored you. The time has long expired, and from the remarks in your previous letter, we saw you were not well, and, therefore, advised what we fully believe would complete your cure, and certainly think you will be acting very unwisely unless you send for the remedies and have your restoration to health satisfactorily completed.

"We are, yours faithfully,
"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "*Dec. 3rd*, 1869.

"DEAR SIR,—You forget that we have never objected to send you medicine, and will send you a supply this day, addressed to 'R. B., Bridport Railway Station.' What we advised you was to have external application to restore the muscular power, and which remedy we did not suppose you would require at first, and, consequently, we did not include this external application in the charge we named ; having taken the medicine so long without being cured, it would be much the best to have the external remedy, which would restore the muscular power of your penis. With these remarks we shall leave the matter to your consideration, but we fear you will never be restored unless you have it, the expense is not considerable. Please take of the medicine we have this day sent, two tea-spoonfuls morning and night in a wine-glassful of cold water, before meals, and continue to follow our former directions in all respects.

"We are, yours faithfully,
"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "*Jan. 6th*, 1870.

"DEAR SIR,—Your letter informing us that you are taking the last bottle of so-called medicine, is duly to hand. You state you have found it 'like a nut without a kernel,' and 'a well without water,' and that it

is also 'a cloud without rain.' Before we can send you any further advice, we should be glad to know what effect the last medicine we sent has produced ; and we cannot understand your remarks about 'nuts,' 'wells,' or clouds ;' and we are quite at a loss to see what this has to do with your case. What we sent last was a powerful medicine, although you state it was 'like a nut without a kernel.' We should be glad, when writing, if you would always let us know what effect the medicine has produced, and what symptoms remain.

"Yours faithfully,

"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY, "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "Jan. 13th, 1870.

"DEAR SIR,—We wrote you some time ago advising you to send for an external application, to restore the action and power of the erecto muscles, and we are now quite of opinion from what you state, that you will never be restored unless you have the external application ; we will supply you with the whole quantity for five guineas. If you are not willing to incur this expense, you had better send for two bottles, which we will send you for two guineas. From the length of time you have taken the medicine, we are quite satisfied that medicine alone is not powerful enough to restore your sexual power ; it is, therefore, no use sending you more medicine, but the external application comes direct in contact with the organs that are debilitated, and restores the vitality and power of action to the muscles, and that is what you are deficient in. Awaiting your reply,

"We are, yours faithfully,

"J. & W. HUNTER."

"INSTITUTE OF ANATOMY. "44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham,
"ESTABLISHED 30 YEARS. "Jan. 26th, 1870.

"DEAR SIR,—You seem to forget that yours is quite an exceptionable case ; what you quote from our book, of course applies to ordinary cases, but in your case there is evidently a great loss of muscular power in the direct muscles, and that is why we so strongly advised you to have the solution to use externally, as we know from experience that taking medicine alone will not remove this weakness ; we are quite satisfied in our own minds that the solution with a powerful course of treatment would restore your sexual power ; and knowing this so well, under the circumstances, we feel no hesitation in guaranteeing that this remedy will complete your cure, and if you send for it, should it fail, we will return the money.

"We are, yours faithfully,

"J. & W. HUNTER."

In this instance, as far as the amount of money obtained from the patient is concerned, it is no great matter ; but the letters give us an insight into the dodges practised by the quacks. The Silver Lotion is somewhat after the "golden remedies" dodge of the London quacks, only on a more modest scale. Here are two more advertisements, which are inserted, I think, by parties connected with the man calling himself Dr. Hunter :—

NERVOUS DEBILITY and all NERVOUS AFFECTIONS, whether the result of early errors or otherwise, are, by very simple and inexpensive means, quickly cured in both France and Germany. The advertiser, a resident in this country, will be happy to send, free to all applicants, full particulars of the mode of treatment there adopted, on receipt of a directed envelope. All persons may cure themselves, and thus not run the risk of being victimised. Address Mons. A. Duval, 13 Newmarket Street, Birmingham.

HEALTH AND MANLY VIGOUR. A Medical man of 20 years' experience in the Treatment of NERVOUS DEBILITY, Spermatorrhœa, and other Affections which are often acquired in early life, and unfit sufferers for marriage, and other social duties, has published a book giving the full benefit of his long experience gratis, with plain directions for the recovery of health and strength. A single copy sent to any address on receipt of one stamp. Address to the Secretary, Institute of Anatomy, Birmingham.

Now, the reason why I think the first advertisement is inserted by a connection of the Hunters is this:—In a trashy pamphlet issued by the person calling himself Mons. A. Duval, Patent Medicine Agent, 13 Newmarket Street, Birmingham, there appears at the end thereof this notice: “Mons. Duval begs to intimate that he is willing to give any further information in reference to the new French Remedy parties may be desirous of obtaining, but being only agent for the sale of Patent Medicines, he does not undertake any case requiring medical treatment, but would refer all parties who require confidential medical advice to Dr. Hunter, 44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham, who has been in practice in Birmingham more than 30 years, and may be fully relied on.” Innocent and disinterested Mons. Duval! Of course he does not know that the parties for whose skill he thus pledges himself are vile quacks! men with no legal title to call or represent themselves as Doctors of Medicine! However, the thing is plainly a sham from beginning to end, and it is evident if such a man exists, he is in the pay of the Hunters, if not one of themselves. By-the-by, should any one of my readers happen to live at Birmingham, I should be obliged by their forwarding me any information they can obtain as to the real names of the man or men calling themselves Drs. John and William Hunter and Mons. Duval.

A gentleman residing at Liverpool, in consequence of having read “THE REVELATIONS,” forwarded me the following advertisements, the majority of which, I believe, he cut out from one or more of the newspapers published in that town:—

CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATION.

IN all Cases requiring Private and Confidential Treatment, consult J. LUCAS & CO., 46 Stafford Street, London Road, Liverpool, who devote their entire attention to all cases of Nervous Debility arising from early errors, which militate against the happiness of life. Messrs. Lucas's new and successful treatment is now extensively practised, and is the mildest, safest, and most expeditious yet introduced into England. Patients having been under their treatment three or four days, even in advanced and serious cases, evince by change of demeanour, renewed energy, buoyancy of spirits, and invigorated health, the wonderful success of their treatment. Being based upon many years' practical skill, they ensure to those who may consult them a safe and speedy Cure in Three Days, without the use of mercury or any deleterious ingredient, change of diet, or hindrance from business; and the remedies can be taken without observation.

Patients whose cases have been badly treated, neglected, or pronounced in curable, are particularly invited to pay them a visit, as in no instance do they leave their care without a perfect cure being effected.

Country Patients, by forwarding £1, with full particulars of case, will receive the necessary remedies, that will in most cases effect a complete cure. Secrecy strictly observed.

OBSERVE THE ADDRESS—

46 Stafford Street, London Road, Liverpool.

Hours of attendance from Ten till Three and Five till Nine; on Sundays till Two o'clock.

DR. DAVIS ON SECRET INFIRMITIES,

Just published, at the reduced price of 1s.

AN Improved Edition of the MIRROR of HEALTH, to meet the greatest demand ever known for a work on the decay of natural vigour, which has also been highly recommended by the profession and the press as containing more information than any similar publication. The above work shows the deplorable effects upon the system of excessive indulgence, mental and bodily prostration, nervous excitement, &c.—The Mirror of Health, price 1s., or by post 1s. 6d., may be had from Mr. Howell, bookseller, Church Street, and direct from the author, Dr. Davis, 114 Duke Street, Liverpool, where he may be consulted daily.

HEALTH and MANHOOD RESTORED IN A FEW DAYS, by Dr. RICORD'S REGENERATOR.—This wonderful agent has received the sanction of the most eminent medical men, and is admitted to be the most powerful remedy known for the cure of Nervous and Physical Debility, local weakness, pains in the back, and premature decline, arising from the imprudence of youth or the excesses of manhood, restoring in a few days the full vigour of youth.

Sold in cases at 11s. each, to be had only from

ROBERT J. RICORD,

7 Fraser Street, London Road, Liverpool.

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL CONSULTATIONS.

ROBERT J. RICORD continues to be consulted in all cases requiring Private Medical Aid, curing slight cases in a day or two without the slightest inconvenience to the patient. Consultation hours—daily from Ten till Three, and Five till Nine; for convenience of many, Sundays till Two.

All letters immediately attended to.

7 FRASER STREET, LONDON ROAD, LIVERPOOL.

The Descriptive Pamphlet free for Two Stamps.

Just Published, by Post for Two Stamps,

THE PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTOR on the Cause and Self-cure of Nervous and Physical Debility. Simple Rules, with Prescriptions in English, for self-curing in a few weeks, and at little expense.—Address, J. Johnston, Esq., 25 Haddington Place, Edinburgh.

IN all Cases of Nervous Debility, Relaxation, or General Depression, the certain Remedy is that well-known and old-established medicine the CORDIAL BALM OF MECCA, prepared and sold only by the SOLE proprietors, Messrs. SWEDOUR, at 102 SEEL STREET, LIVERPOOL. This scientifically prepared and powerfully nutritive cordial restores to their normal condition all the secretions on the integrity of which perfect health depends. It is a gentle

stimulant and renovator of the impaired functions of life, and is principally directed to the cure of such complaints as arise from a disorganisation of the general system.

MEDICAL.—I. J. LEWIS, M.D. (by diploma), begs to announce his system is eminently successful for curing, inexpensively and quickly, nervous debility, pains in the back, general weakness, impurities of the blood and fluids, secondary symptoms, &c., without the slightest risk of a relapse. No case undertaken unless a cure can be guaranteed. Dr. Lewis may be confidentially consulted at 60 Booth Street, East, one door from Oxford Street, Manchester, daily (Wednesday excepted), from 9 to 9.30, Sundays till 1; Wednesday 3. Rockingham Street, Wade Lane, Leeds.

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL ADVICE.

A cure guaranteed in all cases of nervous debility and diseases of the system, arising either from imprudence in youth, excessive indulgence, infection or the effects of climate.

D. R. DAVIS, Author of the "Mirror of Health," and other medical works, 114 Duke Street, Liverpool. Established 1830.

Dr. D. having had extensive practice for many years, and devoted his attention solely to the cure of nervous debility and disease arising from imprudence or excess, also that numerous class of disorders caused by residence in hot climates, sedentary habits, &c., he has discovered medicines by which he can guarantee a certain cure (in an incredibly short time) of the worst cases that have baffled the most skilful practitioner.

The following advantages are derived from his new discoveries—viz., a safe and more speedy cure, no danger from exposure, and parties using them need not be under any fear of detection from their nearest friends, and without any material restraint in diet, or other convenience.

Dr. Davis is the only qualified practitioner who is in possession of these invaluable remedies, which, combined with his extensive practice and acknowledged skill, must prove that he is a medical man to whom the afflicted can apply with safety and certainty of cure. The recent discoveries are found to surpass all other known remedies.

Dr. D. having been more than 20 years in practice deems it his duty to caution the afflicted against placing themselves under the care of young and inexperienced practitioners, he having witnessed serious consequences from the folly of so doing.

Country Patients, forwarding £1, addressed Dr. SAMUEL DAVIS, will receive advice and medicine which will effect a cure in most cases without further charge. Minute details of case are necessary. The utmost secrecy may be relied on. One personal application is advisable in all cases, if convenient.

The "Mirror of Health" may be had of Mr. Howell, bookseller, Church Street, Liverpool, and also at the author's residence. Price 1s. Sent free to any part of the kingdom for 1s. 6d. in postage stamps.

Observe—114 DUKE STREET, where the Doctor may be consulted, as usual, without a fee, from Eight in the morning till Ten at night, and on Sundays from Ten till Two. Secrecy strictly observed. Private entrance in Henry Street, leading from Duke Street.

Just published, price 6d., post-free, seven stamps.

SELF-CONTROL: A Treatise on Nervous and Physical Debility; its Cause and Cure. Illustrated with numerous and interesting cases. By a Practitioner of 30 years' experience. Sold by Mr. Wollard, Castle Street, Liverpool.

REMOVED to 102 SEEL STREET.

CONFIDENTIAL CONSULTATIONS.—Fee, TEN SHILLINGS.—A CERTAIN CURE GUARANTEED.—Messrs S. & E. SWEDOUR, 102 Seel Street, Liverpool, may be consulted on all cases of nervous, mental, or physical debility, languor, depression of spirits, painful dreams, loss of appetite, memory, &c.; and having had great experience during an extensive practice, and received high honour and testimonials for their superior treatment of secondary symptoms, affections of the prostate glands, strictures, and those diseases requiring confidential and skilful advice, they are enabled to guarantee a safe and speedy cure to those who are suffering from any of the above disorders. The system which Messrs. Swedour adopt does not require confinement, use of mercury,

capivi, or any of those dangerous compounds which are invariably used by the unskilful in these complaints. Patients whose cases have been badly treated, neglected, or pronounced incurable, are particularly invited to pay Messrs. Swedour a visit, as in no instance do they leave their care without a perfect cure being effected. A guarantee given for the cure.

Observe the address—102 SEEL STREET (five doors from Berry Street), LIVERPOOL. Hours of attendance from Nine till Three, and from Five till Nine. Sundays, Nine till Two.

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE.

A CURE GUARANTEED IN ALL CASES.

DR. HOOPER has confined his attention for thirty-five years to that class of affections which come from imprudence of youth, excess or contagion, during which time he has treated a very large number of cases with unvarying success. The remedies are mild, and cause no detention from business or change of diet. Those, therefore, who are affected with local and general debility, chilliness, night sweats, timidity, loss of memory, and weakness of the nervous system in general, together with such as suffer from primary and secondary symptoms, strictures, varicose vessels, enlarged prostate, and other varieties of disease, may rely on a safe, speedy, and effectual cure, as Dr. Hooper, in addition to his large experience, is in possession of medicines more salutary than those generally in use. No mercury used.

"THE MEDICAL ADVISER,"

By Dr. Hooper; a really instructive work, with plates of every variety of disease, may be had, price 2s. 6d., post free, of Mr. Howell, bookseller, Church Street, and of Dr. Hooper, at No. 5, Oxford Street, Abercromby Square, Liverpool, where he may be consulted personally or by letter, from Eight a.m. to Ten p.m. Entrance also at 5 Back Oxford Street.

Truly the morality and honesty of journalism in that locality must be at a low ebb when such a mass of obscene quackery can be gleaned from the columns of its newspapers. I reproduce them here because they afford a very fair sample of the class of advertisements which the quacks throughout the whole United Kingdom insert in the different provincial newspapers.* Thus, if any of my readers find this class of advertisements, say in a Dublin newspaper, or an Edinburgh or Glasgow one, or in short, in any country newspaper, whensoever and wheresoever, he may rest assured the men whose names and addresses are given therein are certain to be veritable quacks. I have been in practice now upwards of 38 years, and I never knew of any *legally qualified and respectable member of the profession appending his name to advertisements of this type*. And I do not believe that at the present moment any such advertisements are ever inserted in any newspaper, either in London or the country, by any *legally qualified physician or surgeon*. If I am correct in this (as I am convinced I am),

* Just as the proofs of these remarks are passing through the press, I am informed that the majority of the Liverpool newspapers no longer give admission in their columns to these kind of advertisements. I am glad to hear it for their own credit's sake, as well as for the sake of their readers.

every reader of the preceding letters and observations must at once see the utter folly, nay, madness, of even for one moment thinking of consulting any men inserting in newspapers this class of advertisements. At all events, if any one of my readers does so, he will richly merit to be involved in the pecuniary ruin and the mental suffering which invariably result from having any dealing with these truly *dangerous* classes.

The following admirable article on the subject of "Obscene Quacks," is reprinted from the *Medical Press and Circular* of Sept. 13th, 1871, in confirmation of these remarks:—

"OBSCENE QUACKS.

"The universal difficulty which impedes all philanthropic movements seems to be the impossibility of inducing the public to believe in and appreciate the full gravity of the grievance for the redress of which the philanthropist pleads. When the public are told of the misery, squalor, and starvation of the very poor, or the cruelty, crime, and ruin involved in the frequency of drunkenness, they fail to respond to the representation; not because they are careless as to the sufferings or well-being of their fellow-creatures, but because they have an insufficient belief in the real truth of the statements, or because they regard them as the normal condition of things.

"Those who have waged war against the trade of the obscene quacks have felt these disabilities with greater force, because the subject is one of which the public have no personal knowledge whatever, and the nature of which involves it in secrecy. In spite of the expositions which have been made of the scandalous robbery carried on by the obscene quacks, the public at large do not even remotely suspect the enormity of the evil. Nay! even the Medical Profession are perfectly innocent of the real extent of this system of fraud. The quacks themselves, and a very few other persons, are the only community who really know how vast and how wicked is the system, and this because the secrecy of the process begets an aversion to publicity on the part of the victim, who will rather suffer silently in mind, health, and pocket than unfold the narrative of which he has so much cause to be ashamed, to a friend or a medical man.

"We are prompted to these remarks by the tenor of a letter which has fallen into our hands, and which we give *in extenso*, as a narrative of the characteristic career of an unfortunate dupe. It is addressed to Messrs. Baillière, Tindall, and Cox, the publishers of Mr. Courtenay's well-known exposure of 'Quacks and Quackery',—

“‘TO MESSRS. BAILLIERE.

“‘Having received your pamphlet on ‘Quackery,’ and read it, I feel very much interested with it, and cannot thank the author too highly for the advice therein given. Having been a sufferer from spermatorrhœa, with emissions, myself for five or six years, I have been duped to a great extent, but not so bad as some—probably out of £90 or £100. I suppose it would have been worse had I been better off. Smith, of Burton Crescent, got £4 or £5 out of me, and did me no good. I received a pamphlet a little while ago, purporting to come from Stroud and Co., 20 Exeter Street, Strand, W.C., entitled ‘Nature’s Remedy.’ I think this is in some way connected with Smith, of Burton Crescent.

“‘I then saw an advertisement in a newspaper of one Dr. Watson, of the Lock Hospital, London. I got a curative appliance from him, some medicine, and a lotion. He fleeced me to the extent of £8 or £10, I believe, but did me no good.

“‘I was now so weak and nerveless that I thought I would try some one else.

“‘There was one Dr. Culverwell, of London, about this time, visiting Bristol professionally. I applied to him, and paid him £10 or £12. He cauterised me and made me worse.

“‘I now left him, and tried a surgeon; he did no good—probably not acquainted with such cases.

“‘I now saw an advertisement, entitled, “Nervous Debility cured without the aid of quacks; apply to Secretary, Institute of Anatomy, 44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham.” I had one of the pamphlets, and from what I read therein, I learned that no one else could cure these cases. So I took train and rode to the above place, about 100 miles. I took a small vial of my urine with me.

“‘When I came to the place, I was introduced to Dr. John Hunter (*this fellow nearly frightened me to death*), who, on examining me, said my case was an exceedingly bad one. He said my testicles and the cords leading from them were in a terribly relaxed condition. He said the cords that convey the seed had all but disappeared. He then examined my urine, was away about ten minutes for this. When he came back he said mine was an unfortunate case, says he, the semen runs away with the urine just as it is formed from the blood, without entering the seminal vessels at all, and without any formation. He said he thought my case was hopeless. I then told him if that was the case I had better not spend more money on it. He then said with care and following up his medicine and advice I might recover. He then wanted £10 for medicine,

but I had not that sum at my disposal, so I agreed to pay his fee of one guinea and £6 for a case of medicine—twelve small bottles—one bottle would last about a week ; but that was not the worst of it ; it did me no good. I took that lot, and had two more £6 cases, making £19 worth in all, without the least benefit. My expenses in going to Birmingham and back must have been another £1, making £20. *I enclose one of his letters.*

“ ‘I now received a pamphlet from one Monsieur Duval, patent medicine agent, 13 Newmarket Street, Birmingham, saying he was agent for the sale of a medicine called the new French remedy ; so I have had £6 worth of this man’s nostrums ; I am taking it now, but I shall not have any more of him, as it does no good. I think he has some connection with Dr. Hunter, as he says at the end of the pamphlet, “Any persons in need of professional advice, apply to Dr. Hunter, 44 Great Charles Street, Birmingham, who has been in practice thirty years, and may be fully relied on.”’

“ ‘Now, if you will inform me where I may meet with a honest and straightforward surgeon or physician I should very much thank you. I want one that will work cheap and in a short time.

“ ‘Through this complaint and the harm done me by the quacks, I was obliged to give up business about two years ago. I was then in the farming line of business. I was so weak, both mentally and bodily, that I could not work nor carry on anything at all. I reckon this loss at £150, which, added on to £100 for medical advice, makes a large sum.

“ ‘I am now like the dove from Noah’s ark, which had nowhere to rest her foot, not knowing who to apply to. Do you think there is any doctor in Bristol that can successfully treat my complaint? I am afraid of the London ones now. I wish you would let me know by return of post. I enclose three stamps for return post. I apologise for taking up your valuable time.

“ ‘Yours very truly,

“ ‘J. G.

“ ‘P.S.—Is it any use to try a homœopathic doctor.’

“ ‘44, Great Charles Street, Birmingham,

“ ‘Oct. 14th, 1870.

“ ‘DEAR SIR,—We are not surprised to hear you do not feel so much benefited this time as you anticipated ; until the loss of semen in the urine is entirely checked, and sufficient time has elapsed for the seed to become infused in the nervous system, you will not feel benefited by the remedies ; but by persevering and following out the entire course of treatment, we have not the least doubt of being able to

satisfactory effect your restoration. The escape of seed in the urine we feel no doubt is decreasing, and as the power of retention is gained you will improve. We informed you at the onset that it would take some time to effect your restoration, and that the case would be expensive; we should be sorry for you to suppose that you were throwing your money away, and it would be dishonourable for us to induce you to expend your money unless we felt quite certain we could effect your recovery. The emissions are generally more frequent as the parts begin to act, and continue until the relaxed and irritable vessels become healthy. You had better send for another course of treatment, which we shall now change, and prepare to have a more direct action on the seminal vessels; and we may add we are quite certain we can effect your recovery, and fit you for marriage if you continue to persevere a sufficient length of time.

“Yours faithfully,

“H. W. HUNTER.”

[The orthography of this letter is rigidly followed.]

“Without moralising further on this subject, we pass to the consideration of the remedy for this hidden and villanous system. Without doubt the evil is worthy of the labour of extermination, for the extent of its ramifications and the number of its victims are incredible. We venture to surmise that every reader of these words has within his acquaintance or practice some unfortunate man who is being driven to the verge of lunacy or suicide by the cleverly worded insinuations of these quacks, and yet does not consult his nearest friend; and once immersed in the web of these rascals, struggles helplessly. It seems to us that the duty of stamping out this infamous traffic belongs to no part of the community so properly as to our Profession. We know not only somewhat of its extent, but we know how to invite the confidence of the victims, and in virtue of our scientific qualifications we can speak with authority.

“The method of action would be simple and efficacious. Even if we did no more than receive confidentially the communications of victims like the writer of this letter, and afford them the advice which he longs for and seeks elsewhere in vain, we should have effected the major part of the object to be desired.

“We earnestly suggest the formation of an Association for the Suppression of Obscene Quackery, with this object, and should such an organisation ever exist, we can promise them that their greatest difficulty will be the multitude of their consultants and an overwhelming flood of evidence, which

will enable them to deal shortly, sharply and decisively with the harpies engaged in such practices."

The following excellent article on the subject of these obscene quacks stigmatises with just severity the disgraceful assistance rendered to their abominable practices by the complicity of the Provincial Press in the insertion of their deceitful advertisements. The article is so much to the point that the reader will thank me for quoting it *in extenso* :—

MEDICAL QUACKS: THEIR DUPES AND NEWSPAPER SUPPORTERS.

The receivers of stolen goods, in the eye of society and the law, are accounted as bad or rather worse than the thieves. If the housebreaker, shop-lifter, or those unfaithful servants and assistants who plunder their masters and mistresses had no vile den to resort to where they could secretly dispose of their booty, robberies would be more sparse. It is so with medical quacks, turf-sharpers, and sham money-lenders. If no disreputable newspaper existed to give them facility in advertising their pretensions, their trade would collapse, or be confined to very contracted limits. Some few years since the *Lancet*, an influential and respectable medical journal in London, exposed the nefarious doings of quack doctors and their agents. The *Medical Press*, in a series of papers, also gave a fearful and terrible exposure to the principal well-known London charlatans, who for years have openly, covertly, and systematically carried on their obscene and abominable work—working on the fears of the weak-minded, plundering them of their money, crushing their spirit, and entailing indescribable misery upon them, their family, and relatives. The *Medical Press and Circular* again of this month returns to the exposure, adding another hideous example to the long list of blood-suckers and their dupes, who are swelling the catalogue of criminality and seething corruption, which is turning the land into a second Sodom and Gomorrah. The *Medical Press* deserves the commendation of the profession of which it is an exponent, and also the thanks of the general public, both in Dublin as well as in London, for its courageous action. In London for many years there is a regular organised system of fraud in medical quack advertising carried on, and many of our Dublin daily newspapers, and Provincial ones, are fattening on the proceeds of the money they obtain through the London and Irish agents of these nefarious swindlers. It would be perhaps invidious on our part to point out one or two Dublin journals as the principal sinners in aiding this damnable traffic, while the majority of the rest are also sinners to some considerable extent. If proof be wanting, let the files of the Dublin daily Press be examined for the last two or three years; let some of them be examined at the present hour, and the quack and sham advertisements will be discovered by any person with ordinary intelligence. We will not contaminate our pages in giving samples *in extenso* of these prurient and abominable announcements, but we will indicate their character by one or two leading phrases. "The Friend in Need;" "A Medical Work on Marriage;" "The Tonic Elixir;" "The Silent Friend;" "Manhood;" "A Cure for All;" "The Adventures of an Invalid in Search of Health;" "On the Self-Cure of Nervous Debility, &c.;" "The Self-Adjusting Curative;" "New Medical Guide;" "Debility, its Cause and Cure;" "Rupture Effectually

Cured ;" "A Warning Voice ;" "A Cure for All, or the Neuropathic System of Medicine ;" "Invigorating Pills," and scores of others of a similar stamp. The authors of the above works are known by several *aliases*, such as Dr. Smith, Dr. Watson, Dr. Hill, Dr. Thomson, Dr. Carpenter, Dr. Thomas, Dr. Marston, Dr. Hammond, &c.

These so-called medical doctors are a gang of miscreants one and all ; but the difficulty of hunting them down exists in the fact that they are always changing their names or places of abode. They are related to each other in many cases by family ties, and work through each other's hands as agents for one another, thereby deceiving the unwary. We have spent some time in tracking these monsters in human shape, and we have been on their trail in London, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

"Like the Indian in the wild wood,
We've dogged their track of slime,
And we'll shake the Gaza pillars yet
Of their godless Mammon shrine."

These beastly fellows advertise extensively in the country papers in England, and in the Irish provincial papers. In some quarters they pay handsomely in advance, but they often repudiate their order after it runs for six months, whenever they can obtain publicity without paying in advance.

The writer holds in his possession several newspaper orders given for advertisements by several of the above scoundrels to different journals in Ireland, and copies of several given to newspapers in London and Dublin. "Would it surprise" some of those moral daily newspapers in Dublin if we told the Irish public the amount of money they receive in the year for inserting the prurient advertisements of these medical quacks and their comruges in infamy ?

We know one individual in the capital of Ireland who prints sham journals under different names, and perhaps the whole circulation of the batch does not amount to one hundred copies, and yet the moral newspaper proprietor pockets several hundred pounds yearly from these London medical quacks. We know another newspaper proprietor in Dublin who pockets several hundreds also by printing swindling advertisements for different kinds of quacks—medical, sporting, and betting.

We know a third old-established journal off a leading street in Dublin which has pocketed yearly several hundred pounds also, which passes through the hands of newspaper agents and canvassers from Drs. Watson, Hill, Smith, Hammond, James, and the rest of the gang. Without instancing any by name on this occasion, we may truthfully say almost the whole of the Dublin papers have assisted in this newspaper infamy, not one crying *peccavi*.

Many years ago, in Dublin, the founder and editor of a certain well-known newspaper of good literary reputation was prosecuted for libel at the instance of a certain Dr. Larkin. This worthy was in the habit of extensively advertising his medicines, for which he claimed miraculous properties. The newspaper editor in question never allowed quack or objectionable advertisements to appear in his journal, but by some mistake Dr. Larkin's advertisement crept into the first edition of the newspaper, and was printed off before it was detected. In the second edition the editor apologised to his readers for the accidental insertion of the objectionable advertisement, denouncing it as a sham. This gave cause to the reputed libel, but the jury did not compensate the doctor by their verdict. They valued his injured reputation at what it was worth, and the dignity and morality of the Irish press were for once upheld and commended.

It were to be wished that the subsequent career of the same paper was signalled by the same purity, and that its conductors observed a little more discrimination in the selection of their advertisements. Although it does not sin to a great extent, many quack advertisements of a mild type appear from time to time in its columns, and have heretofore appeared.

In some instances the proprietors or managers of newspapers may be mistaken or deceived, but no journal of any long standing can be in ignorance of the character or merits of a certain class of advertisements. We would ask these newspaper proprietors have they any respect for their own homes, their own sons and daughters, or do they think it is possible that their own newspapers can be read with any degree of safety in their own households, if they contain the class of advertisements we are alluding to?

Curiosity is excited, and youth of both sexes are too prone to gratify it by purchasing in an underhand way those foul and malignant publications which they see so constantly advertised. The first temptation leads to the second, and sin and disease soon put the giddy, foolhardy, or fashionable youth into the hands of those land pirates who are ever on the look-out for their quarry.

In making war upon *bonâ-fide* medical quacks and their supporters in the newspaper press, we by no means wish to eliminate from condemnation other large classes of advertising impostors, who, though they do not dub themselves doctors, live by imposture. Advertisers of "Purifying Pills," "Strengthening Pills," "Cough Lozenges," and a variety of different kinds of pills and lozenges too numerous to mention. Then we have "Hair Restorers," "Hair Dyes," "How to make Whiskers and Moustaches Grow," "Remedies for Baldness," "Depilatory," "Freckles Removed," "To the Nervous and Afflicted."

In some instances it is a clergyman who is the reputed advertiser, who wishes to communicate to suffering humanity the secret of how he was perfectly restored to health. The wolf in sheep's clothing only asks "a stamped envelope," but through fifty newspapers the same old clerical rascal is playing the same dodge. He thereby receives as many stamped envelopes from all his dupes as enables him in another line of business to carry on his other swindling transactions. Our *moral* daily and provincial journals are the very life-blood of these vermin. They help them to live, and as long as they are thus helped the said vermin will swarm upon the land and plunder society.

To enable our foolish, weak-minded, and fast-living young men in the country to avoid these land-sharks, and also for the purpose of opening the minds of the general public, and to strike a blow at newspaper infamy in our midst, we publish herewith a Medical Quack Directory. For this Guide to the Quacks of London and elsewhere we are in a great measure indebted to Mr. F. B. Courtenay's valuable pamphlet, "Revelations of Quackery." We supplement Dr. Courtenay's list with a few more additional names :—

A GUIDE TO THE MEDICAL QUACKS.*

Dr. J. T. Barnes, Lonsdale Square, Barnsbury.

Dr. Cubit, 6 Crisp Street, Poplar, E.

Dr. Carpenter, London, and Lee, Kent.

Du Brange, Gilbert Street.

Jones, A., Somerford Grove, Stoke Newington.

Dr. Ricord (Patent Medicines, see advertisements).

* I have only inserted the names which do not appear in my "Guide to the Quacks."

Dr. Swayne (Patent Medicine Inventor, see advertisements).
 Sylvester, F., Willesden, Middlesex (see advertisements).
 Thomson, 55 Bartholomew Road, Kentish Town.

The above are some of the principal miscreants, but a few of the firms mentioned have undergone a transformation within the last three years ; others have changed their residences for suburban and provincial districts. There are at least a half-dozen of the above principal wretches who still follow their nefarious practices in their head-quarters in London, and who advertise freely in the Dublin and Irish provincial press. By referring to the list, these scoundrels may be traced in the pages of our daily and weekly Press in this city.

If, after this exposure, the Press of this city continue to publish the advertisements of the above moral assassins, we will be forced, in vindication of public and private morality, to openly denounce by name, without fear or favour, the principal newspaper receivers of the blood-money of these rascals.

In the name of all that is pure and honourable, how can the minister of either church or religious institution in our midst continue to wink at these scandalous advertisements which are daily outrages on decency and morality. The newspapers who give advertising facility to those vile charlatans, their public advocacy otherwise in the cause of religion or social progress is not worth twopence. Hundreds upon hundreds of our population are plundered and poisoned year after year by these medical pests of society. Yea, plunder is supplemented by murder, whole families are destroyed, insanity is engendered, and the victims of these vile knaves are driven headlong to destruction and an early grave. The passions and excesses of youth give unfortunately ample scope for the practice, and the alluring baits thrown out by these medical quacks ; and when once the young slave entrusts himself to their care, or opens a correspondence with them, his doom is, in all likelihood sealed.

Young men of respectable families, shun these advertising monsters in human shape if you value your peace of mind, and would not dare to dream of bringing shame and ruin on your homes. Having regard to public decency we cannot give in these pages the fitting exposure to the system that it needs, for in handling filth and exposing it to the public view, a danger is run that should be prevented, if possible.

In the march of social and sanitary improvement, empiricism must be stamped out, or the public health can never be finally established. If a public prosecutor were appointed, his duty would be not only to prosecute to conviction those red-handed assassins we have pointed out, but also to prosecute the disreputable newspapers who aid and support them by giving publicity to their obscene and swindling pretences.—*The Irish Builder*, Oct. 1st, 1871.

I now bring my labours to a close, and can only express my most earnest hopes that the additional information herein contained, in reference to the country Quacks, may as effectually serve to protect my readers from falling into the traps set for them by these men, as I have reason to know the letters in the past have saved many from becoming victims to their London confederates.

QUACKS AND QUACKERY.

From the SATURDAY REVIEW, April 1, 1865.

THE recent trial and conviction of the fellow calling himself Dr. Henery, has, and very properly compelled public attention to one of the very worst of our social evils. The subject is a most disgusting and offensive one; but as we have hardly arrived at that last stage of national or moral decrepitude in which, as in old Rome, people can endure neither the vices of the times nor their remedies, we make no apology for venturing again on quacks and quackery. Besides, we have, in the very able and, in more senses than one, exhaustive publication of certain letters signed "Detector," and published in the "Medical Circular," a proof that something can be done to arrest the career of the impostors and extortioners whose existence and depredation on the public are not only a disgrace to society, but a reproach to our laws, or, at any rate, to our law-makers. "Detector" is a medical practitioner, and he says, very reasonably, that interested motives might be assigned for his speaking out. But he appeals to others to whom no such personal reasons could be objected. He asks the clergy to help him in what he calls the "*guerre à l'outrance* against the whole tribe of obscene quacks." But sermons on dirty advertisements and the medical museums can hardly be expected, and a morning call and pastoral visits on the stupid folly of buying "Silent Friends," and consulting the scoundrels whose calling is proclaimed in too many of the London papers, are not likely to be numerous. So that on the press falls the unpleasant labour of denouncing this rampant evil. We are content to accept our share in what we believe to be a good work. Sir George Grey, and the like of Sir George Grey, and even the better sort of Parliament men will not move—perhaps cannot be expected to move—unless backed, or rather urged, by the stress of public opinion. The duty, therefore, of exposing quacks rests somewhere; and as it is part of the burden which falls upon those who undertake the office of public instructors to have unpleasant things to say, our readers must pardon us for taking up their attention with a subject, the importance of which none but fools, or worse than fools, can underrate. The facts of the case must be forced upon people before public opinion can compel a remedy.

The most practical mode of estimating the extent of the evil is by reckoning it at a money value. Much to their discredit, several of the London newspapers insert the advertisements of such people as Dr. Henery, and, availing themselves of the late outcry against this traffic, they have—done what? Answered the public exclamation of disgust against their pandering to evil? Have they suppressed these dirty advertisements? By no means; "they have in some instances increased their charges for this class of advertisements some three or four hundred per cent." Of course, as we shall be told, they have done this with the view of suppressing them; that is, by making sin costly, they affect to discountenance it. But the quacks advertise just as freely as before, and the only result is that the proprietors of a single journal "pocket, according to the new rate of charges, and the number of advertisements now being daily inserted, between three and four thousand pounds per annum." To be sure, these newspapers compound for the sin by writing sensational leaders against quacks, which is rather unfair upon these profitable customers. Sambo himself preferred floggee to preachee, and it is rather hard upon the vendors of "sealed books" to be both fleeced and preached at by a London newspaper. "Detector" has been at the trouble of noting the number of advertisements inserted by one firm of quacks alone in

one London newspaper, "which has converted the recent outcry into a source of profit," and he finds that in six consecutive days these fellows have inserted, and of course paid for, forty-six advertisements. That is to say, according to the new scale of *prohibitory* charges, "one newspaper pockets from one firm of a family of quacks, 2,890*l.* per annum." Let anybody, taking this basis of calculation, multiply the payments made by one firm to one newspaper, and the conclusion is inevitable that a single London newspaper may easily, or perhaps in this instance must, make at least 10,000*l.* a year by obscene advertisements. Further, we find that one firm of these quacks—comprising, according to "Detector," three establishments—must also spend as much as 10,000*l.* a year, and most likely very much more, on the advertisements which they insert, not in our London papers alone, but in many others—metropolitan, provincial, and colonial. Add to this the cost of paper, and of printing their filthy books and hand-bills, and distributing them by post gratuitously—"Colonel ——— informed me that all the officers at Aldershot were annoyed by this class of books being sent to them"—and we shall get at an approximate estimate of the profits of a trade which can afford to spend so much in advertising. Any ordinary tradesman would reckon his annual trade profits at at least twice his expenditure on advertising. We can therefore show, by "Detector's" help, that the cost of advertisements and gratuitous copies of their publications and posting-bills to one of these tradesmen in vice and extortion must reach to 12,000*l.* or 15,000*l.* a year, from which it follows that the profits of one of these establishments must approach to 30,000*l.* a year. Compare this return with the very best medical practice in London, and verily we are a wise and understanding people to allow this sort of thing to go on. But we are not left to approximate calculations, or to conjectural, though most probable statistics as to the profits of these traders on the follies of the credulous. Here are some of "Detector's" facts. At p. 30 we find the case of a young man, who had nothing on earth the matter with him, but had frightened himself to death by reading one of these pernicious books, paying in a gross sum, 220*l.*, and giving acceptances for 280*l.* more. At p. 33, another victim, "after paying eighty guineas, was informed that his case required for its cure '*a preparation of gold*' so enormously expensive that it could not be prepared unless the patient paid down a thousand guineas." At p. 34 we find a still more remarkable and nefarious transaction, which was in part defeated by the interposition of the late Sir B. Brodie. A young gentleman, "not labouring under any disease requiring medical treatment," consulted one of these London quacks, "his attention being attracted by an advertisement in one of the London newspapers, of a book called '*On the Philosophy of Marriage.*'" A cure was undertaken for 300*l.*, and the dupe gave stamped securities for the payment of this 300*l.* in three years. Subsequently, other securities were given for the payment of 500*l.* more; and when these bills came to maturity, and the acceptor was unable to meet them, the poor wretched young man agreed to pay 1,250*l.* by instalments of 100*l.* a year for the first five years, and 150*l.* a year for the next five years. Besides incurring liability for this enormous sum, the victim, "who, when he consulted the quack, was not really ill," actually paid as much as 765*l.* in the way of instalments and renewal of bills, and was only released from his engagements for the 1,250*l.* additional by a suit in Chancery, in the progress of which Sir B. Brodie made an affidavit to the facts of the case. By this application to Chancery the quack was compelled to compromise the matter by repaying 400*l.* out of the 765*l.* which he had received, and by giving up all claims to the further sum of 1,250*l.* The result is, that in

an unsuccessful instance of extortion—and moreover, in one of those rarest of cases in which the patient applied, and successfully, to the law to extricate him from the complicated meshes in which he had involved himself—the quack contrived to get 365*l.* for a single “case.” “Detector’s” next instance—we forbear from the tedious and monstrous details—is “another case in which proceedings in Chancery were instituted against a notorious firm for the recovery of 600*l.* in money, and bills for 2,000*l.* obtained by them from a credulous young man,” and from Yorkshire too. This case bears date 1850, and “Detector” says, “I have now before me an official copy of the bill in Chancery,” and it is some satisfaction to know that the eminent practitioners proceeded against were compelled to disgorge every farthing of the fees and securities obtained from the young gentleman from the country. From the known, we may in this instance with tolerable certainty infer the unknown; and with these facts before us we think it certain that the estimated profit of 30,000*l.* a year for a single firm is probably much within the mark.

“Detector,” however, does not content himself with this indirect proof of the extent of the evil occasioned by advertising quacks. After remarking that “reptiles cannot be destroyed by sprinkling them with rose-water,” and that “mere initial denunciations, and mysterious hesitating references to so-called Dr. This or That, residing near such a street or square,” will not be enough, “Detector” hunts his quacks down singly, and denounces by name and residence, in alphabetical order, all the gentlemen whose advertisements are to be seen in the newspapers. He gives the names and *aliases*, and occasionally the biographies, of no less than thirteen of these advertising practitioners in London alone, whose names and qualifications are not to be found in the authorised Medical List, or on the registers of the Medical Council. He shows, as Henery’s case indeed showed, how the quacks practise under false or assumed names; or how the same fellow reproduces himself as Messrs. H. of one place, and Dr. H. P. of another; or how, like Cerebus, three single gentlemen are rolled into one, and preside, under various *aliases*, over various Institutes and Colleges in various parts of the town. We are not disposed to follow “Detector’s” example, or to extract his minute and careful revelations, partly because we do not choose to furnish the quacks with an advertisement, and partly because those curious in such matters may read the names of these fellows in the advertising pages of too many of our contemporaries, and partly because “Detector’s” narrative is too good to be abridged, and ought to be, as we believe that it is, largely circulated, which is no less than it deserves, both for its fearless tone and for the care and research which have been bestowed on its compilation.

We ought to state that extortion of money is not the worst evil for which the quacks are responsible. Since Henery’s conviction, we find the records of two suicides which are proved to have originated in morbid fears occasioned by the publications which “Detector” denounces. One was the case of Corporal Ashford, of the Coldstream Guards, at the inquest on whose body, held March the 17th, it was found that he had purchased the “Warning Voice,” and after consulting its authors, or circulators, blew his brains out. The other was that of a man named Miles, a foreman on some works at Gravesend, who destroyed himself in January. On the inquest it was proved that he had been in the habit of reading works on “Secret Diseases,” and in their verdict the foreman intimated that the jury “considered deceased’s insanity to have been brought about by the perusal of certain pamphlets issued by, and letters received from, Dr. De Roos, of Tavistock Square.”

But it is superfluous to enlarge on the extent of the evil. Thanks to

too many of our public instructors, it meets us in the daily newspapers. It flaunts itself in the most crowded thoroughfares in the shape of Priapeian Museums and Public Lectures, which are only advertisements for the private establishments of the quacks who are their proprietors. It thrusts bills and invitations into the hands of passengers in the public streets. It proclaims itself on every wall and lamp-post. It ruins foolish young men by the thousand, ruins them in body, soul, and purse; it destroys the peace of families; and it inflicts tortures worse than death—racking fears, mental anxiety, ghastly horrors of unknown and coming evils, poverty, insanity, suicide. And yet nothing is done, while the suppression of the evil is easy enough. We do not mean to say that the quacks can be prosecuted for selling or circulating obscene books, under Lord Campbell's Act. If their abominable wares were simply obscene, they would be much less injurious than they are. This is not their chief vice. What they do is to terrify those who read them with a frightful catalogue of imaginary maladies, ending in the most direful consequences, illustrated by terrific pictures and plates of every conceivable and inconceivable result, the sole escape from which is by taking the invaluable specific of Dr. A., or B. C. and Co., who always advertise themselves as regular practitioners. This is the point at which the law ought to interfere, and at which the public is justified in demanding protection from the law. If, as we suppose must be the case, the present Medical Registration Act cannot punish or prevent these impostors, let its powers be enlarged. It is the veriest idleness and pusillanimity of legislation which declines to interfere in such a case out of pretended regard for the freedom of the subject. This wretched pretext has been rather overworked. And surely, if the public safety requires Parliament to interfere in the matter of selling poisons over the counter of an open shop, these secret marts of poison—physical, mental, and moral poison—ought to be dealt with. A single successful prosecution of a quack—not by one of his victims, but by authority—would extirpate the whole gang. And public opinion is nearly ripe for demanding, if it does not already loudly require, the interference of official authority.

From the MEDICAL CIRCULAR, March 29, 1865.

FROM the concluding remarks of "Detector's" last letter, I presume that clever elucidator of quack practices has taken leave of you, at least for the present. Every member of the Profession, every well-wisher of his species, is under an obligation to the writer, who has so manfully laid bare the villainy of the quack fraternity. He has announced his intention to reprint his letters; could philanthropy be better exercised than by the dissemination of thousands and thousands of copies over the length and breadth of the land? I hear of these quacks printing a hundred thousand copies of their filthy pamphlets at a time; why should not "Detector" be helped to do the same? Let the reprint be published at as low a price as paper and print will admit of, and let me hope that he will find a Howard, or a Bond Cabbell, or other philanthropist, who will give it a circulation at least equal to the filthy books it so well exposes. Every young man in the kingdom, from the age of sixteen and upwards, should read this reprint, and every father and every guardian of youth should take care they do, and then the obscene quacks may close their establishments, for their occupation would be gone.

QUACKS AND THEIR CRIMES.

From the WEEKLY DISPATCH, of April 9, 1865.

Good service has been done to society by the *Medical Circular*, in publishing a series of letters, entitled "Revelations of Quacks and Quackery," which is republished in the form of a pamphlet. Amongst the "Notices to Correspondents" in the *Dispatch*, the reader will occasionally have noticed in answer to enquiries touching certain pretenders to the character of Medical Practitioners, a caution, warning the querist to avoid them, and designating them as quacks. This is the most favourable information concerning those rascals that the readers of the *Dispatch* will meet with in any department of this Journal. The exposures of individual impostors, where the evidence of their dealings was undoubted, everyone knows to have been constant and unsparing. But the advertising columns of many of our contemporaries, especially the country newspapers, are defiled, in a measure as large as it is disgusting, with the advertisements which the proprietors of those journals allow the quacks to insert in them; to set there, as traps to catch prey under the name of patients. We all know that "fools are the game that knaves pursue;" and the victims captured by means of quack advertisements are not generally among the wiser portion of the community. Many of them, however, lie open to be allured into the quack's net, not by mere congenital and absolute folly, but only through either the inexperience of youth and want of knowing the world, or a natural deficiency in the particular faculty of deciphering characteristic expression. There are some who fail to recognise a quack advertisement when it meets their eye, from a defect of perception similar to that which incapacitates certain persons from distinguishing a sporting gent, or any other man, whether conversant with horses and exhaling the stable mind, or denoted to be whatever else he is in particular, by outward and visible signs. Such persons, however, might be preserved from becoming the dupes of pseudo-medical swindlers by the plain information respecting them that could be imparted by a competent "guide, philosopher, and friend;" and such an one they will find in "Detector," the signature under which the correspondent of the *Medical Circular*, whose letters are in question, wrote, and re-issues his "Revelations of Quacks and Quackery."

These "Revelations" do, indeed, constitute a full, true, and particular apocalypse of the infamous practices of the scoundrels who are exposed in them, and have, besides, the special merit of giving the names of all these advertising impostors and rogues. "Detector," indeed, not only gives the names of the quacks, but also their aliases; for, like other irregular practitioners, they mostly carry on their fraudulent operations under assumed names. One notable particular in his revelations is the fact that they act in gangs, euphemistically calling themselves firms, in many of which the partners, or accomplices, are all the same persons—indeed, members of one family—driving their abominable trade in separate places, at distinct establishments differently denominated. Thus it often happens that when a simpleton has been a sufficiently great one to consult Quack No. 1 and Co., and, after having been plundered by them for a long time without relief, goes to consult Quack No. 2 and Co., and is shown into their consulting-room—presently in walks, as Mr. No. 2, the very same quack that had, as Mr. No. 1, already fleeced him.

The amount of plunder which the obscene quacks shown up by "Detector" are extorting from the credulity and nervousness of the public,

may be computed from the figures given by him of the money spent by them in advertisements. "The reader," he says, "may judge of the extent and success with which those pretended physicians and surgeons carry on their frauds, when he learns that the annual cost of the advertisements inserted by the principal quacks in the metropolis and provinces may be estimated, without taking into account the cost of the colonial advertisements, collectively at about 50,000*l*." To this outlay add the other incidental expenses of their villainous business, the cost of the paper and printing of their foul books, handbills, and posters, of their fine houses and establishments, ostentatious equipages, and enormous luxury. Take also into consideration the large fortunes which some of them are known to have made. It is evident from this data that "the gross annual amount derived from the nefarious trade" must bear some not inferior proportion to the grossness of the extortion in which that noisome trade consists. The profits of their "firms" have been estimated at about 30,000*l* a year. The advertising expenses of the quacks have of late been considerably augmented by a shrewd expedient, masked under an affectation of virtue, on the part of certain newspaper proprietors, who have responded to the appeals addressed to them by the decent and scrupulous portion of the Press, inviting them to exclude the beastly puffs of those blackguards from their columns, by raising their scale of charges for such announcements, under the pretence of a prohibitory tariff, some three or four hundred per cent. According to "Detector," one of these accessories of obscene extortioners is making between three and four thousand pounds per annum by the lies and filth with which, on this system of sham discouragement, he suffers them to pollute his newspaper.

The sums out of which the gangs of quacks contrive to cheat the weak young men who have recourse to them, in some cases amount to upwards of a thousand pounds. Quacks have been known to take as much as 500*l*. in a single fee; 220*l*. down on the nail, and a bill at a short date for the balance, 280*l*. This plunder they derive from their victims by working on their fears, excited in the first instance by the prodigious falsehoods asserted in the loathsome books, of cases advertised under the title of scientific treatises. They aggravate these terrors by the reiterated lies which they tell those unfortunate boobies, aided by the exhibition of plates and wax models representing the frightful ravages of disease, from which they assure them that the only possible escape rests in submission to the treatment which they alone are able to prescribe. It is a common dodge with them to represent this treatment itself as tedious and terrible, something only less dreadful than the uncontrolled disease; and then, when the sufferer, real or imaginary (in general imaginary), anxiously inquires if there is not some easier way to a cure, to inform him that there is, but that it is of such a nature as to be enormously expensive. The monstrosity of their impudence, and the gullibility they practise on, is such, that one lie through which they are in the habit of robbing their patients of hundreds and thousands of pounds, consists in accounting for the pretended expensiveness of the treatment necessary for the milder method of cure, by the assertion that it "requires a preparation of gold." In one case cited by "Detector," the quack said that this remedy was so dear that he could not prepare it unless the patient paid him a thousand pounds down. The further means of extortion employed by the quacks in question consist in threats of violation of professional confidence by publication of details of the patient's disorder. Happily, for once, in the case of the notorious "Dr. Henery," this device has resulted in imprisonment and hard labour. In other cases wherein the pressure of the law has been brought to bear upon him, the quack has been obliged to disgorge the greater

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part of his booty. "Detector" mentions one case in which, by the help of the late Sir Benjamin Brodie, he was enabled to get a quack into Chancery and to make him forego his hold on securities to the sum of £1,250, which he had obtained from his dupe after having robbed him of £765, *minus* £400, which, by compromise, the quack agreed to refund. In another instance, "Detector" succeeded in compelling a notorious firm to refund altogether £600 in money and £2,000 in bills. So much for some idea of the robbery perpetrated by the obscene quacks. "Detector," moreover, cites two recent cases of suicide occasioned by their false and filthy publications.

"DETECTOR'S" BROADSIDE ON QUACKS AND QUACKERY!

From the SUN, April 12, 1865.

MR. COURTENAY'S bold, dashing, slashing pamphlet, entitled "Revelations of Quacks and Quackery"—being a reprint of a remarkable series of letters published by him originally under the pseudonym of "Detector," week after week, in the columns of the *Medical Circular*, and here republished in a formidable *brochure* of seventy-two pages octavo—Mr. Courtenay's daring, pitiless, and uncompromising pamphlet is really and truly, we would say, a capital substitute for the pillory! There are certain offences against public decency and public morality, in regard to which we are sometimes almost disposed to regret the abolition of the punishment of the pillory. And it is against one of these—it is against one of the very worst of these that "Detector," that is to say Mr. Courtenay, has opened up his terrific, ripping, tearing, annihilating broadside! With a bold and, we would almost say, self-sacrificing devotion to the interest of the public—disdaining to think of the pitch and filth he is constrained to handle in doing it—"Detector," resolutely buckling to the unenviable task he has set himself, resolutely seizes, one after another, upon a whole set of these quacks, fastening them, one after another, as he seizes them, in the pillory of his pamphlet. It is for all the world like the actual realisation of Tenniel's ruthless cartoon in a back number of *Punch*—wherein, it may be remembered, one of the Dr. Henery genus was being pelted with some of his own medical abominations! "Detector's" labours in another way might be regarded as having been undertaken in imitation of one of the most famous of the labours of Hercules, namely, that of cleaning out the stable of Augeas. So far as the feather end of a single pen could do it, "Detector" has cleared out *his* stable, that stable the doors of which he has not hesitated to fling wide open to the public at large! And he has "gone in" at this effort of his towards making a clean sweep of it, so resolutely and with a will, as the sailors have it, that his ("Detector") grey goose-quill, we will hope, may prove for the quacks and for quackery like a very twig out of the besom of destruction.

GUIDE TO THE QUACKS OF LONDON.

From PUNCH, April 12, 1865.

A SERIES of papers relative to quacks, which appeared in the *Medical Circular*, with the signature of "Detector," has been republished in the form of a short pamphlet. The reader of *Punch* should read this pamphlet also. He has often read in the pages of *Punch* of certain quacks,

fraudulent and noisome, who obtain money by false pretences, and more money by menaces and extortion, from green young men. For their names, which *Punch* would not advertise, he has referred his readers to the lower corners of the advertising columns of low newspapers, amongst which too many of *Mr. Punch's* contemporaries, especially in the country, may still be enumerated. But now he begs to publish the information that a nominal list of these miscreants, with copies of their puffs and other particulars concerning them needful to be known, will be found in the pamphlet above referred to, which is entitled "Revelations of Quacks and Quackery," and is to be had at the *Medical Circular Office*, 20 King William Street, Strand, W.C.

The vile practices, the monstrous impudence, the cruel rapacity, and the enormous gains of the obscene tribe of quacks, the mischief they do, the ruin they work, even to the causation of suicide, are fully set forth in "Revelations of Quacks and Quackery." And mark especially that, as aforesaid, the names of the quacks are published. The pamphlet in question thus constitutes a regular Quack Directory, by consulting which a young man may know where he may go if he wishes to get plundered and destroyed.

The *Medical Circular* has a great advantage over a non-medical journal in respect to the exposure of quacks. An ordinary periodical could not call a quack a quack by name, to say nothing of denouncing him as an extortioner and a scoundrel, without incurring the danger of an action for libel. No difficulty would be experienced by the most notorious quack, or gang of quacks, in finding among the members of an honourable profession an attorney who would take their instructions, and a barrister who would plead their cause. A pedantic construction of the law of libel on the part of British judges, and stupidity on that of British jurymen, are not so rare, but that such a fellow as the convict "Dr. Henery" would, as plaintiff in a libel case, obtain, in compensation of his assailed honour and impugned integrity, vindictive damages. But no prospect of damages will tempt any quack to give a periodical almost restricted to the Medical Profession the much more damaging effect to himself of the general publicity which it would gain by a prosecution.

Buy, therefore, reader, by all means buy "Revelations of Quacks and Quackery." Its contents will astonish and amuse you, while they invoke your indignation and disgust. Of course you do not want it on account of its warnings for your own sake, but you doubtless do for the sake of the many simpletons with whom you must be acquainted, if your acquaintance is large. "Who are the quacks that *Punch* means?" Consider what it is to be able to answer this question of the young and inexperienced, and, for charity's sake, if for no other, go and provide yourself with "Revelations of Quacks and Quackery," by "Detector."

From the UNITED SERVICE GAZETTE, May 27, 1865.

THE letters of "Detector" have already attracted no small share of public attention in the class journal to which they were sent, but the writer acts wisely in collecting them in a pamphlet, so as to remain a permanent exposure of quacks and quackery. We do not know which most to admire in these letters, the effrontery of the exposed quacks, or the gullibility of their victims, both of which are dealt with by Dr. Courtenay with a free and fearless hand. Surely the criminal law could be made to reach such scoundrels. Men are sentenced every day to penal servitude for life for extorting money by the threat of certain accusations, and why should not equally severe measures be dealt out to fellows who obtain their large fees by a precisely similar process? In both cases the threat of exposure is the screw which acts so effectively on the victim.

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From the SOCIAL SCIENCE REVIEW, June 1, 1865.

A CYNIC has remarked that the *genus homo* might conveniently be divided into two main classes—rogues and fools,—and there would be little difficulty in assigning a ready place to ninety-nine of every hundred persons classified. Without fully accepting this doctrine, there can be no doubt that the history of the advertising quacks, particularly of London, reveals an amount of ignorance and credulity displayed by a large section of the public,—composed for the most part, too, of those claiming to be considered educated and generally well informed,—that would hardly be believed, were the truth not so painfully apparent. These “Revelations” recently appeared in the “Medical Circular,” as a series of letters, under the *nom de plume* of “Detector,” and created so great an interest that the author has been induced to re-publish them in a pamphlet form. They supply the names, *aliases*, and history of the more notorious of the gang of thieves; explain the modes of deception by which they entrap and defraud their victims, and show the enormous profits that are annually realised by the nefarious trade. We have no space to give extracts; nor is it necessary, as the work is published at a price which places it within reach of all interested in the subject of its contents,—a large class, as the particulars prove. We need only remark that the author deals with the impostors with a firm hand. “Reptiles cannot be destroyed by sprinkling them with rose-water,” he observes, and certainly he does not let a mawkish sentimentality interpose to turn him from this purpose. The time has come when it is absolutely necessary to speak out. Public decency is daily outraged by the filthy handbills that are thrust into the hands of the pedestrian in most of the great thoroughfares; and “Medical Halls” and “Museums,” eminently calculated to deceive the unwary youth, are springing up in various parts of the metropolis, and budding and sprouting with the proverbial luxuriance of ill-weeds. Something, we repeat, must be done to put a stop to this; and if government will not interfere in the matter, the Press must be looked to to rid the country of the evil. We can, to borrow the language of the quacks, “truly recommend parents, guardians, and patients, to peruse the valuable remarks that are contained in these ‘Revelations,’” touching the ignorance, imposition, and credulity of which they treat.

From PUBLIC OPINION, June 10, 1865.

THESE revelations are made in a series of letters written by Mr. F. B. Courtenay, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, to the “Medical Circular.” While the revelations were appearing they excited considerable attention, and now they are issued in a pamphlet they ought to be read all over the land. “Detector” has exposed with merciless severity the doings of the quack firms in London; he has shown how they entrap their credulous victims, and basely plunder them. Among the parties named by “Detector” as quacks, are Hammond, Perry and Co., Watson, Bright & Co., Curtis, *alias* La’Mert, Walter de Roos, Harvey & Co., W. Hill, Esq., H. James, Esq., Dr. Kahn, *alias* Sexton, D’Lalor, Marston, Smith, and Thomas. A pretty good phalanx, to be sure, of them, like professionals on whom the police have an eye, enjoying the privileges and advantages of *aliases*. Some of these apostles of medicine feeling that their letters and pamphlets are not sufficiently potent to rouse the suffering public to a sense of the seriousness of the physical maladies, have opened museums, where models serve to illustrate the ravages of various ailments. This is philanthropic and considerate, and very likely has the effect of increasing the consulting fees, or, in other words, facilitating secret robberies.

Our surprise is that a set of unskilled charlatans, unskilled in medicine but adepts in thieving, should be permitted by the law to flourish so rankly and so glaringly. When burglars, pick-pockets, and garroters are detected and convicted, they undergo some salutary correction and punishment ; why should not the quacks, who are viler and more ignominious miscreants than garroters and other dangerous thieves, when caught in swindling their terrified dupes, be subjected to the same sort of exhilarating treatment ? If we punish one set of lawless scoundrels who rob houses and beat men in the street, why should we leave unchastised an illiterate gang of impudent and crafty vagabonds, who, under a medical pretext, pick the pockets of the timid and the unwary ? The evil these quacks do is both sad and serious ; they ruin often the health of their victims, deprive them of sanity, and ruin them in purse. The healing art is a noble one ; duly-qualified men, when really interested in their profession and skilful, are public benefactors. It is a disgrace, then, that their practice, which compels them to be educated, should be usurped by unlearned and mendacious quacks, whose heartlessness and cool dishonesty are unparalleled by any other set of robbers. We hope the medical profession, who, whatever may be their faults and quarrels, will take some step that shall result in a law capable of routing the medical vermin from their strongholds, and be the means of guarding the nervous and the simple from being terrified and shamefully defrauded. "Detector" has done his work well ; he has had nasty materials to deal with, but he has made out a case so strong against the quacks that it must have beneficial results. We advise the public to purchase these "Revelations," and see how the disgusting tribe of sham doctors are pilloried and their doings related. London, and indeed many large provincial towns, ought to be speedily purified from the presence of men who are loathsome and inexpressibly despicable, and who have too long evaded a course of justice dealt out to their brethren of burglarious propensities. We would that every quack, on being convicted of fraud or of practising as a doctor, were treated to a good scourging with the cat-o-nine tails, and then consigned to a long term of penal servitude. We could scarcely credit the stories "Detector" has here made public if his veracity and respectability were not beyond doubt. With such astounding facts before us, and which have been extensively circulated, it would be a great crime towards the public to neglect trying to extinguish the unclean and ungodly vampires around us, so as to protect youth especially from their vile and vulgar influence. The Press can do much in the reform needed, by refusing to insert abominable advertisements. We regret there are quacks in the Press whose virtues are hypocrisies, and whose love for the public welfare is a transparent sham. The hollow morality of the Press quacks is, to our infinite disgust, paraded before us ; the public are daily gulled by prints that pretend to care for their safety in slaugy leaders denunciatory of all sorts of impositions, but that find it a too painful and profitless task to refuse publicity to quack advertisements. When the Press shall universally reject quacks' announcements, quackery will decline and the public be benefited. Our own columns have never been sullied and dirtied by indecent medical announcements ; and we rejoice that a man so clever and fearless as "Detector" has laid bare, for the good of society all over England, the workings of a band of bastard medical practitioners, whose undisguised existence in our midst is a deep stain on our honour, thoroughly inexcusable ; for the execrable knaves and villains we are describing, with their lewd and brazen manifestoes, corrupt and pollute alike, the mind and morals of a large class of people who have not the courage to disbelieve their monstrous exaggerations, or the good sense to despise their revolting indecencies. W

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